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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL


REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. RAMAGE, M.A. (Admin.), M.D.

For the Year 1955



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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

PRELIMINARY NOTE

The general statistics for the year show no outstanding features but do present a number of interesting and useful ones. The population has again increased in spite of a fall in the birth-rate and a slight increase in the death-rate, and the explanation is probably immigration, including the overspill population from certain of the neighbouring County Boroughs.

The population of the County is therefore increasing in particular areas, thus creating a need for new Services, including Health Services, which it has been hard to meet in a proper way. The suggestion that Health Centres might be valuable, particularly in newly-built areas, was made at the time of the 1946 National Health Service Act, but the conditions under which the Ministry will now permit provision of these Centres are such that they can rarely be fulfilled. The main condition is that the family doctors practising at the moment in the area to be served must agree to conduct their practices from the new Health Centre if and when it is built, and as most of them already have commitments in the form of their own surgeries it could have been expected that they would be unlikely to agree. This has proved to be the case, for in only three instances out of thirty-three was agreement forthcoming, and in one of these, where 100 per cent of the practitioners were enthusiastic, permission was refused on the grounds that the County clinic premises were not bad enough, although they are in an inconvenient adapted building.

Much time has been spent by the Health Committee in deciding whether and where Health Centres are required and in obtaining sites to allow the worst Clinics to be replaced. When action seemed possible the standstill on capital expenditure was imposed, so that no new Clinic has been built in Staffordshire since before the war. Three Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics have been approved, but of a much reduced size when compared with similar existing buildings, and this lack of space may prove an embarrassment in future years.

One cannot but feel that the lack of new and attractive buildings in the fresh centres of population and the continued use of the aged adapted and rented premises, often dilapidated, in the old localities make it

difficult to attain a higher proportion than 7,590 children attending Maternity and Child Welfare Centres of the 13,552 born in 1955. A fall in this number of children attending was recorded this year and is to be deplored, for these Centres perform important functions in giving advice and education in health matters which have not been provided by any other section of the National Health Service.

In the table on page 13 are shown the causes of death in numerically ascending order. The proportion of deaths due to accidents is striking and even alarming. Much is heard about road accidents, but, in fact, far more deaths occur in the homes. Administrative attempts have been made by the Health Committee to combat these deaths and injuries in the home by using the known methods of persuasion and education. An endeavour was made to secure a report from the hospitals in respect of each case admitted with an injury because of a home accident, to the Health Department, so that steps could be taken to safeguard other persons in the same house. In addition, common factors and new hazards connected with home accidents could be discovered in this way, but the attempt was unavailing since it was considered that such action would undermine the liberty of the subject. One is driven to the view that probably the most effective method of prevention lies in the supervision of safety standards of manufactured household articles, including clothing, and the layout of buildings, and, in this direction, much remains to be achieved, e.g., the adequate guarding of fires, provision of non-inflammable clothing, fool-proof gas and electric appliances, etc.

It is a pleasure to note the extension of a scheme designed to reduce one domestic danger, the scheduling of "Specified Areas" under the 1955 Order. During the year a further area in the County was covered by the Order, so that at the end of December 83 per cent of the population were living in areas supplied with Designated Milks only. Reference to the table on page 31 again shows the greater cleanliness and safety of pasteurised milk as compared with undesignated milk. Ninety-seven point seven per cent of samples passed the cleanliness test and this is probably as near to 100 per cent as any scheme will achieve. The fact that 99.43 per cent of school children are supplied with pasteurised milk was another further advance.

Yet another satisfactory feature is the continued decline in the number of deaths attributable to tuberculosis and, what is perhaps more important, that the notifications of new cases are also reduced. To a large extent this is due to the introduction of new methods of treatment in this country which commenced to be used generally about 1948, though the part played by the improvements in nutrition and housing should not be forgotten. With the exception of the war periods, the death-rate from tuberculosis has been falling since the turn of the century; doubt has been expressed in the past as to whether the reduction in the death-rate would prove to be permanent, or whether we were witnessing a deferment of deaths which would occur later on, but as seven years have now passed it seems more likely that the former is the case. If so, it means that what was the major killing disease of young people relatively only a few years ago is substantially declining in importance.

These factors apart, the position today is that cases of tuberculosis can be dealt with in the same way as other infectious diseases, i.e., the source of infection traced and affected individuals treated by all the known medico-social methods available for cure and rehabilitation. A spectacular reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis has been achieved in Holland and Denmark and the same could be achieved here. It will be seen that particulars of the number of contacts examined in the County are recorded in more detail this year and it is hoped in future to give increased attention to this type of work. The appointment by the Health Committee of whole-time Tuberculosis Health Visitors in certain parts of the County may result in a more effective follow-up of patients and better liaison with the Hospital Tuberculosis Service. The Mass Miniature Radiography Units have been fully employed and are finding increased acceptance by the public. Furthermore, during the year 4,000 school children of 14 years of age were examined on a routine basis prior to leaving school. At three schools a concentrated investigation was carried out where cases of tuberculosis occurred amongst the staff and children. In this connection it is pleasing to note that the Education Committee has approved a scheme whereby all school entrants in selected parts of the County will be tested to see if they have had any infection or have been in contact with tuberculosis. This procedure may lead to the finding of further cases and enable some degree of protection to be offered to those concerned. By these methods, together with immediate admission of new cases to Sanatoria for effective treatment, we may anticipate the complete control of tuberculosis becoming a possibility.

Diphtheria continues in Staffordshire at a higher rate than in some other parts of the country and this year two deaths occurred in children, neither of whom had previously been immunised. The percentage of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised at any time in their life is 74.3, but the number of new immunisations and reinforcement doses given unfortunately fell this year. This was due to the resignation of the doctor of one of the immunisation teams and a long delay occurred before a successor could be appointed. Also immunisations had to be suspended for longer periods than in the immediately preceding years because of the increase of number of poliomyelitis cases which occurred in certain areas of the County.

During the year a new combined Ambulance and Fire Station at Cheadle was completed and officially opened by the Chairman of the Council, Alderman A. G. B. Owen, C.B.E., and this was the fourth new Station to be built in the County since 1948, which is a more successful record than that of the Clinics referred to above. The question of the installation of wireless control in the Ambulance Service was further debated by the County Council, and, though no final decision had been reached at the end of the year owing to the repercussions on the reorganisation of the service, the scheme was later agreed.

Beyond a further small increase in work, which is probably accounted for by the increase in population, and the purchase of more sitting-case cars reflecting the emphasis on provision of regular transport to Out-patient Departments of Hospitals, apart from routine work there was little to note in the Ambulance Service.

A further step forward in the facilities offered to mental defectives was the opening of an Adult Industrial Centre at Willenhall. This is intended to accommodate 60 defectives of both sexes, who will be paid a minimum of one shilling per day. Attendance at the Centre is primarily to give the defectives the feeling that they are going to work like other members of the community. Many attractive articles are made by the trainees which are offered for sale and trades taught include boot Repairing. Besides giving a useful occupation to the older age groups the Centre has had the effect of relieving the Special Training Centres in the south of the County of this type of defective, which allows more specialised tuition being given to the needs of the younger children.

It is not possible in the foreword to do more than mention a few of the more prominent happenings in the year and the record of the whole of the work of a large team, which now numbers over 1,500, is contained in the body of the Report. The success of the Department in contributing to the increased standards of health of the population is dependant on the efficient work of each member of the staff, both in the field and offices, which has been forthcoming during the year. Equally important is the work of the Health Committee, who have continued to support with enthusiasm every proposal for the improvement of the service and upon this the future rate of progress depends.

G. RAMAGE,
County Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1956.

COMMITTEES

The Committee of the County Council concerned with public health is the Health Committee.

The County Medical Officer also acts as medical adviser to all Committees of the County Council including the Education Committee, Welfare Services Committee and Children's Committee.

HEALTH OFFICERS

(A) MEDICAL

County Medical Officer of Health

G. RAMAGE, M.A. (Admin.), M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health

H. BINYSH, M.D., M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P. & S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Barrister at Law.

Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare

KATHLEEN D. ARNSBY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

County Psychiatrist

H. S. COULSTING, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

Medical Officers to Area Health Committees

A. W. M. BATTERSBY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

H. B. BINKS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Left 30.9.55)

J. H. DONNELLY, T.D., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

C. E. JAMISON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

A. H. KYNASTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

W. D. H. McFARLAND, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Commenced 15.12.55)

W. A. McLENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J. TOLLAND, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

E. H. TOMLIN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

R. WEBSTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

(B) OTHER PROFESSIONAL

County Dental Officer

F. C. WINTER, L.D.S. (U.BRIST.)

County Analyst

A. HOULBROOKE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

County Sanitary Inspector

H. PREST, M.I. San. E.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Administrative County	...	...	...	(acres)	685,239
Estimated Home Population of Area, 1955 (primarily for calculation of Death-rates or incidence of Notifiable Diseases)	...	...	...	...	890,100
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1955 (General County Purposes)	...	...	...	...	£4,265,612
Estimated net product of a penny rate, 1955-56 (General County Purposes)	...	...	...	...	£16,946

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
Live Births, Legitimate	...	13,126	6,793	6,333		
Illegitimate	...	426	215	211		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Total	...	13,552	7,008	6,544	Birth-rate	15.2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Still-births, Legitimate	...	373	208	165		
Illegitimate	...	12	5	7		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Total	...	385	213	172	Rate per 1,000 total births	27.6
Deaths	...	9,616	5,169	4,447	Death-rate	10.8

		<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births</i>
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		7	0.5
Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...		27
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..		27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..		47
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...		1,523
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...		7
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...		—
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under one year of age)	...		14

AREA AND POPULATION

There has been no alteration in the area of the Administrative County this year.

The estimated populations have been supplied by the Registrar-General and are primarily given for the calculation of death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases. The figures are home populations (i.e., including members of the armed forces stationed in the area).

Until 1940, Area Comparability Factors supplied by the Registrar-General enabled local death-rates to be adjusted for comparison with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted rate of any other local area. From that year, however, and until 1948, the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and during the war years the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure such comparability. The factors to adjust local death rates were, however, re-introduced in the 1949 Report, and are again included to adjust both birth and death rates.

The estimated population and rates for each District are shown in the tables at the end of the Report.

In the following table the final census population of the Administrative County for 1951, and the estimated home population for mid-1955 are set forth :

	<i>Census, 1951 (Final)</i>	<i>Estimated Population, Mid-1955</i>
Urban 	640,648	663,800
Rural 	214,509	226,300
Totals 	855,157	890,100

BIRTHS

The live births registered in the Administrative County for birth-rate purposes numbered 13,552, compared with 13,529 the previous year, the number in the Urban Districts being 10,216 and in the Rural Districts 3,336.

Stillbirths. There were 385 stillbirths registered during the year, of which 306 were in Urban and 79 in Rural Districts. The stillbirth-rate per thousand of the population for the combined Urban and Rural Districts was 0.43. During the same period the rate for England and Wales was 0.35.

LIVE BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION															
DISTRICTS	5 yrs. 1889- 1893	5 yrs. 1894- 1898	5 yrs. 1899- 1903	5 yrs. 1904- 1908	5 yrs. 1909- 1913	5 yrs. 1914- 1918	5 yrs. 1919- 1923	5 yrs. 1924- 1928	5 yrs. 1929- 1933	5 yrs. 1934- 1938	5 yrs. 1939- 1943	5 yrs. 1944- 1948	5 yrs. 1949- 1953	1954	1955
{ Staffordshire { Combined Urban and Rural .. { Urban .. { Rural ..	33.6	33.2	32.5	30.3	27.8	24.0	24.1	20.2	17.6	17.1	18.3	19.9	16.2	15.4	15.2
	35.5	34.7	33.6	31.5	29.2	25.0	25.0	20.7	18.1	17.5	18.9	20.4	16.4	15.5	15.4
	30.2	30.5	30.2	27.0	24.4	21.6	22.0	19.0	16.6	15.7	16.7	18.5	15.6	15.1	14.7
England and Wales ..	30.8	29.7	28.7	26.9	24.5	20.4	21.3	17.8	15.6	14.9	15.2	18.2	15.8	15.2	15.0
Large Towns in England	31.5	30.7	29.7	27.8	25.2	*20.9	22.0	18.2	15.8	14.9	16.3	21.0	17.5	16.8	14.9

* 4 years.

DEATHS

The number of deaths in the Administrative County amounted to 9,616,
the number in the Urban Districts being 7,241 and in the Rural Districts 2,375.

DISTRICTS		DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION														
		5 yrs. 1889- 1893	5 yrs. 1894- 1898	5 yrs. 1899- 1903	5 yrs. 1904- 1908	5 yrs. 1909- 1913	5 yrs. 1914- 1918	5 yrs. 1919- 1923	5 yrs. 1924- 1928	5 yrs. 1929- 1933	5 yrs. 1934- 1938	5 yrs. 1939- 1943	5 yrs. 1944- 1948	5 yrs. 1949- 1953	1954	1955
{ Staffordshire	Combined Urban and Rural ..	18.1	16.9	16.1	14.6	14.1	15.0	12.3	11.4	11.6	11.3	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.8
	Urban ..	18.9	17.5	16.6	15.1	14.7	15.5	12.6	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.2	10.4	10.7	10.5	10.9
	Rural ..	16.8	15.7	15.1	13.4	12.7	13.8	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	10.4	10.0	10.3	10.5
England and Wales ..		19.1	17.4	16.9	15.3	13.9	15.2	12.5	12.0	12.3	11.9	12.6	11.5	11.7	11.3	11.7
Large Towns ..		21.0	19.0	18.2	15.8	14.3	15.5	12.6	12.0	12.3	12.0	14.0	12.9	12.5	12.0	11.6
Smaller Towns ..		17.6	15.9	15.7	14.9	13.6	14.1	11.5	11.0	11.2	11.4	12.4	11.8	11.6	11.3	11.6

In the following table I have shown the *chief* causes of death for 1955. The numbers given are 81.0 per cent. of the total deaths.

TABLE SHOWING CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3,016
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	1,523
Vascular lesions of nervous system				...	1,309
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	589
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	361
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	340
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	244
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	125
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	109
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	86
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	76
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	8

(See Table on following page).

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH								TOTAL
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	2	25	40	7	2	76
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	2	—	1	1	3	1	—	8
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	2	15	9	5	31
4. Diphtheria	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	2	2	1	3	4	2	—	16
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	—	—	—	—	12	88	93	65	258
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	—	—	—	—	21	178	68	21	288
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	—	—	—	—	16	65	37	28	146
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	—	—	—	6	11	13	16	46
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	1	—	6	9	54	280	236	199	785
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	3	3	2	7	12	6	3	36
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	5	19	24	23	71
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	—	—	1	23	246	422	615	1309
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	27	333	386	276	1022
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	1	5	61	87	73	227
20. Other heart disease	—	—	—	6	59	203	475	1024	1767
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	1	9	57	111	183	361
22. Influenza	7	1	—	1	5	16	23	32	85
23. Pneumonia	62	8	3	3	19	61	91	93	340
24. Bronchitis	5	1	1	—	10	157	175	240	589
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3	1	—	5	58	20	26	116
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	9	41	34	23	107
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	14	1	—	1	6	12	5	12	51
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	1	7	14	35	15	14	86
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	7	17	46	70
30. Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	7
31. Congenital malformations	77	11	4	4	7	4	—	2	109
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	186	13	18	8	47	157	165	516	1110
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	12	13	30	31	21	9	9	125
34. All other accidents	11	11	13	15	35	38	18	103	244
35. Suicide	—	—	—	4	30	51	13	11	109
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	8
Totals	371	76	68	98	503	2278	2562	3660	9616

The following table has been prepared covering the last 36 years, in which the percentage of deaths under 45 years of age is worked out in relation to the total deaths of all ages, and in the table the sexes are divided. Speaking generally, in 1955, 11.6 per cent. of all deaths occurred under the age of 45.

DEATHS UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE — MALE AND FEMALE — SHEWING
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS (ALL AGES)

YEAR	MALE			FEMALE		
	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total
1920	4,626	2,295	49.61	4,084	1,935	47.38
1921	4,545	2,120	46.64	3,985	1,759	44.14
1922	4,534	1,943	42.58	4,191	1,793	42.78
1923	4,197	1,816	43.27	3,788	1,556	41.08
1924	4,332	1,795	41.43	3,906	1,520	38.91
1925	4,556	1,919	42.12	4,161	1,724	41.43
1926	4,148	1,658	39.97	3,808	1,441	37.84
1927	4,458	1,766	39.61	4,082	1,564	38.31
1928	3,965	1,449	36.54	3,563	1,180	33.12
1929	4,813	1,827	37.96	4,293	1,453	33.84
1930	4,100	1,473	35.92	3,672	1,211	32.98
1931	4,376	1,472	33.64	3,933	1,272	32.34
1932	4,190	1,425	34.01	3,824	1,174	30.70
1933	4,213	1,415	33.59	3,900	1,207	30.95
1934	4,105	1,261	30.72	3,655	1,054	28.84
1935	4,284	1,354	31.61	3,802	1,159	30.48
1936	4,203	1,266	30.12	4,022	1,100	27.35
1937	4,793	1,484	30.96	4,075	1,041	25.55
1938	4,497	1,296	28.82	3,915	1,065	27.20
1939	4,498	1,223	27.19	4,038	973	24.10
1940	4,899	1,315	26.84	4,246	1,069	25.18
1941	4,882	1,436	29.41	4,110	1,086	26.42
1942	4,257	1,150	27.01	3,742	970	25.92
1943	4,403	1,090	24.76	4,112	1,004	24.42
1944	4,136	1,069	25.85	3,800	889	23.39
1945	4,356	1,002	23.00	4,133	921	22.28
1946	4,385	1,006	22.94	3,934	804	20.44
1947	4,657	988	21.22	4,090	786	19.22
1948	4,275	895	20.94	3,717	715	19.24
1949	4,651	861	18.51	4,162	671	16.12
1950	4,805	779	16.21	4,183	631	15.08
1951	5,139	793	15.43	4,480	576	12.86
1952	4,519	647	14.32	3,993	510	12.77
1953	4,705	657	13.96	4,154	506	12.18
1954	4,849	560	11.55	4,337	457	10.54
1955	5,169	669	12.94	4,447	447	10.05

CHEMICAL LABORATORY

The following relates to the work undertaken during 1955 :

The laboratory has, during the year, provided an analytical service dealing with samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and related legislation both for the County Council and for six other autonomous Food and Drug Authorities within the County of Stafford.

It has also provided similar facilities for dealing with samples taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act and a large volume of work connected with samples of waters and effluents as well as a considerable amount of work relating to the measurement of atmospheric pollution. A small section of the laboratory's work, but one which frequently requires the greatest skill and experience available, is that dealing with the group of " Miscellaneous Samples ".

The area served by the laboratory had a population of 1,164,100. The Staffordshire County Council's administrative area, for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act, had a population of 636,070. The number of food and drug samples examined from this area was 4,925 which gives a sampling rate per 1,000 of population of 7.7 per annum.

There has been little change this year in the law actually in force relating to food and drugs. The Bread Order was amended to permit the sale of an article described as National Milk Bread. This article has to be prepared from National Flour to every hundred parts of which has been added six parts by weight of skim milk powder. Several organisations protested to the Ministry that this was a misuse of the term " Milk " but their views were disregarded. The Food Standards (Table Jellies) Order was also amended in order to permit the use of low-setting gelatine in the manufacture of table jelly crystals.

During the year, however, considerable changes were made in the law relating to food and drugs and consolidated under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into force at the beginning of 1956. This includes a detailed section on the nature of offences in connection with the preparation and sale of injurious foods and adulterated drugs, the use of the word " cream " in confectionery products, special provisions re sampling unopened containers and the use of misleading labels on pre-packed foods. New Regulations made under this Act by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, acting jointly, relate to Food Hygiene, composition of Butter and Margarine, Labelling and use of Mineral Oil in Food, which also came into force in January, 1956. It is hoped that the provisions of the new Act will lead to more effective control of food quality.

Early in the year the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Food published its Report on Arsenic with revised recommendations for limits for arsenic in food.

TABLE I

The total number of samples analysed was as follows :—

For County Council :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	(a) Chief Inspector's Samples...	3,922
	(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector's Samples	1,003
	(c) "Appeal-to-Cow" Samples	225
	(d) Private Samples	Nil
Milks for Hypochlorite Tests		127
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926		94
Drinking Waters		384
Swimming Bath and Pool Waters		94
River Waters		106
Sewage and Sewage Effluents, Trade Wastes, etc.		209
Atmospheric Pollution		849
Miscellaneous Samples		84
		<hr/>
		7,097

For City of Stoke-on-Trent :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	766
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926		6
Miscellaneous Samples		10
		<hr/>
		782

For Borough of Rowley Regis :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	287
Miscellaneous Samples		1
		<hr/>
		288

For Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	171
Miscellaneous Samples		8
		<hr/>
		179

For Urban District Council of Brierley Hill :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	161
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For Borough of Stafford :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	216
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For Urban District Council of Cannock :

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Chief Inspector's Samples ...	161
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Total		<hr/>
		8,884

COUNTY COUNCIL SAMPLES.

Table II shows the total number of Food and Drugs samples submitted and the number reported against.

TABLE II

SAMPLES	Number Examined			Number Adulterated or below standard		
	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total
Almonds	3	5	8	—	—	—
Baking Powder and Golden Raising Powder	3	1	4	1	—	1
Bun, Cake and Pudding Mixtures ...	16	6	22	2	1	3
Butter	57	—	57	—	—	—
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	25	25	50	—	—	—
Cereal Products	12	6	18	1	—	1
Cheese	41	1	42	—	—	—
Cocoa and Chocolate Preparations ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Coconut	3	—	3	—	—	—
Coffee (Ground)	2	—	2	—	—	—
Coffee Extracts, Coffee and Chicory Extracts	4	6	10	—	—	—
Cream	5	2	7	—	—	—
Custard Powder and Prepared Starches	11	5	16	1	—	1
Dried Fruit	3	11	14	—	—	—
Drinks, Alcoholic	34	—	34	—	—	—
Drinks, Soft (Liquid and Powder)	50	3	53	1	—	1
Drugs	76	29	105	4	—	4
Fats	47	2	49	—	—	—
Fish Pastes and Fish Products ...	18	9	27	—	—	—
Flavourings and Colourings	3	—	3	—	—	—
Flour, Confectionery	5	5	10	1	—	1
„ Self Raising	10	5	15	—	—	—
„ Plain, Various	5	4	9	—	—	—
Foods, Baby and Tonic	5	1	6	1	—	1
Gelatine	2	1	3	—	—	—
Gravy Browning and Salt	2	4	6	—	—	—
Herbs, Spices and Condiments	35	16	51	3	2	5
Honey	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	21	—	21	1	—	1
Ice Lollies and Lollipops	1	—	1	1	—	1
Jellies	13	2	15	—	—	—
Margarine	31	—	31	2	—	2
Marzipan	5	1	6	—	—	—
Meat Products (a) Sausage and Sausage Meat	91	2	93	11	—	11
„ (b) Brawn, etc.	6	—	6	—	—	—
Meat Pastes and Meat Products, Canned	44	14	58	1	1	2
Milks	2,794	1,003	3,797	102	7	109
Milk, Condensed	3	6	9	—	—	—
„ Flavoured	2	—	2	—	—	—
Oils, Refined and Salad	1	2	3	—	—	—
Pickles, Various	7	4	11	—	—	—
Preserves, Various	29	10	39	—	—	—
Puddings	9	4	13	—	—	—
Salad Cream and Dressing	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sauces, Various	8	9	17	—	—	—
Soups	22	4	26	1	—	1

TABLE II — *continued*

SAMPLES	Number Examined			Number Adulterated or below standard		
	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total	For- mal	Infor- mal	Total
Sugar	12	5	17	1	—	1
Sugar Confectionery	44	4	48	3	—	3
Sweet Spreads and Syrups	3	1	4	—	—	—
Tea	45	1	46	—	—	—
Vinegar	14	2	16	—	—	—
Unclassified	16	2	18	1	—	1
Total	3,700	1,225	4,925	139	11	150

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Of the 4,925 samples submitted from the County Area, 4,775 were found to be genuine and 150 adulterated or below standard, the percentage of adulterated samples being 3.0%. The rate of adulteration for the County is a little higher than that of last year, the figures for 1947-54 being 12.2, 7.7, 5.4, 5.1, 2.9, 4.4, 2.5 and 2.7 respectively.

(1) MILK.—Three thousand, seven hundred and ninety-seven samples of milk, of all grades, were submitted for analysis. These comprised 668 samples of “Tuberculin Tested,” 3 “Tuberculin Tested (Certified),” 408 “Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised),” 142 Channel Island, 1,397 “Pasteurised,” 360 Sterilised and 819 undesignated milk. One hundred and nine or 2.9 per cent. were found to be adulterated, of which 60 contained added water, five contained added water and were fat deficient, 36 were fat deficient and 8 were deficient in fat and solids-not-fat. These figures do NOT include “Appeal to Cow” samples.

Action Taken.—Of the 109 unsatisfactory samples taken, 43 were of undesignated milk and 66 were of designated milk.

Seven of these were informal samples taken by Sampling Officers of the County Sanitary Inspector’s Department, viz. : 2 “Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)” and 5 “Pasteurised.” They were included in the 1,003 samples collected from School Canteens, Day Nurseries, Hospitals, Institutions and milk supplied under the “Milk in Schools” scheme. Four of the samples were deficient in fat and three contained added water. Formal repeat samples taken by Officers of the Chief Inspector’s Department from the same sources proved to be genuine.

The remaining 102 samples adversely reported upon were taken formally under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and comprised 43 samples of undesignated milk and 59 of designated milk.

The samples of undesignated milk were dealt with as follows :—

The deficiencies in the case of 3 samples were small and the vendors were cautioned.

“ Follow up ” and/or “ Appeal to Cow ” samples were taken in the case of 19 samples all of which were found to be genuine. Six samples were noted down for further sampling. Action was taken with regard to 15 samples.

Fifty-nine samples of Designated milk were found to be adulterated, viz. : 34 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 2 samples of Channel Island Tuberculin Tested Milk were found to contain added water. Seven samples of Tuberculin Tested, 11 of Channel Island Tuberculin Tested and 1 of Channel Island Milk were deficient in fat. Two samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were deficient in fat and contained added water and 2 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were deficient in fat and solids-not-fat.

With regard to 3 samples of Designated Milk, repeat samples taken from the same sources were found to be genuine.

Five samples were noted down for further sampling. Cautions were issued to 2 vendors against 2 samples where slight deficiencies were apparent. Ten samples were proved to be naturally poor by “ Appeal-to-Cow ” samples.

Three hundred and seventeen samples of Milk were below the presumptive standard. Of these, 220 were in respect of samples which were found by the Freezing Point (Hortvet) test not to be adulterated with added water although below standard in solids-not-fat. Fifty-nine samples which were low in fat and 38 samples deficient in both fat and solids-not-fat were found to be due to natural causes.

PROCEEDINGS.

During the year proceedings have been instituted in respect of 15 samples of Milk, 23 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 4 samples of Channel Island Milk adulterated with added water. Fines amounting to £113 0s. 0d. were imposed, together with £150 12s. 0d. special costs.

“ *Appeal to Cow* ” Samples.—Of the 225 “ Appeal to Cow ” samples taken, 61 were found to be naturally poor in solids-not-fat, 44 naturally poor in fat and 27 naturally poor in both fat and solids-not-fat.

The average composition of the milks of all grades, including “ Appeal to Cow ” samples, was :—

Fat	3.62%	} Total Solids — 12.27%
Solids-not-fat	8.65%	

Of the 3,688 samples of milk of all grades, passed as genuine, 220 (6.0 per cent.) were naturally poor in solids-not-fat, their Freezing Point (Hortvet) showing that they were genuine. Fifty-nine samples (1.6%) were naturally poor in fat and 38 (1.0%) were naturally poor in both fat and solids-not-fat, the Freezing Point (Hortvet) and “ Appeal to Cow ” samples proving them to be genuine.

The poor quality of the 317 samples which failed to reach the low minimum standard of 3.0% fat or 8.5% solids-not-fat, but were passed as genuine, is further emphasised when the average quality of all samples is noted, namely, 3.62% of fat and 8.65% of solids-not-fat.

(2) GENERAL ARTICLES OF FOOD.—One thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight samples were examined and 41 samples (37 formal and 4 informal) were found to be adulterated.

Proceedings were taken in respect of one sample of Butter Drops Toffee deficient in butter fat. A fine of £2, together with special costs amounting to £3 7s. 0d. was imposed.

Informal samples of Iced Chocolate, Cake Mix, Curry Powder, Mint Sauce and Tinned Meat were found to be adulterated. The fullest investigations were made and the manufacturers and packers contacted resulting in the necessary steps being taken to prevent a recurrence.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

The 94 samples submitted for analysis comprised 46 Fertilisers and 48 Feeding Stuffs.

Fertilisers.

Of the 46 fertilisers, 31 were satisfactory. The results of analysis of the remaining samples are given in the following table :—

TABLE III

<i>Number of Offences per sample</i>	<i>Nature of Offence</i>	<i>Number of samples</i>
1	Excess of nitrogen	4
	Excess of potash	3
	Deficiency of potash	3
	Deficiency of insoluble phosphoric acid	1
2	Excess of nitrogen and excess of total phosphoric acid	1
	Excess of potash and excess of insoluble phosphoric acid	1
3	Excess of potash, excess of insoluble phosphoric acid and deficiency of soluble phosphoric acid	1
	Excess of potash, deficiency of nitrogen and deficiency of soluble phosphoric acid	1
	Total number of unsatisfactory samples	15

Feeding Stuffs.

Of the 48 feeding stuffs, 30 were satisfactory. The results of analysis of the remaining samples are given in the following table :—

TABLE IV

<i>Number of Offences per sample</i>	<i>Nature of Offence</i>						<i>Number of samples</i>
1	Excess of oil	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Deficiency of oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Excess of albuminoids	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Deficiency of albuminoids	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Deficiency of fibre	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Incorrect statement	...	...	...	...	...	1
2	Deficiency of oil and deficiency of fibre	...	...	...	...	...	2
3	Deficiency of oil, deficiency of albuminoids and deficiency of fibre	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Total number of unsatisfactory samples	...	...	...	...	...	18

DRINKING WATERS.

Three hundred and eighty-four samples of drinking water were submitted in the course of the year ; 58 for full analysis ; 298 for partial analysis ; 4 for partial analysis and plumbo solvency ; 4 for full analysis and plumbo solvency ; 9 for chlorine only ; 7 for partial analysis and metals and 4 for special analysis.

Of the 384 samples for analysis :—

274 samples were of satisfactory quality.

18 samples contained sewage pollution.

40 samples contained organic pollution.

17 samples contained metallic contamination.

9 samples contained metallic and organic contamination.

1 sample contained metallic contamination and was of doubtful quality.

4 samples contained sewage and organic pollution.

2 samples contained sewage and metallic contamination.

2 samples contained sewage, organic and metallic contaminants.

1 sample contained an excess of chlorine.

1 sample contained sewage pollution and was plumbo solvent.

5 samples were plumbo solvent.

8 samples were of doubtful quality.

2 samples were otherwise unsatisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH AND POOL WATERS.

49 samples were submitted for full analysis.

45 samples were submitted for chlorine content only.

RIVER WATERS.

76 samples were submitted for ordinary analysis.

6 samples were submitted for special analysis.

**24 samples were submitted for fluorine estimation.

SEWAGE, SEWAGE EFFLUENTS AND TRADE WASTES, ETC.

192 samples were submitted for ordinary analysis.

17 samples were submitted for special analysis.

**These samples were submitted on five occasions, from July until December, in order to obtain a record of the fluorine originally present in a river water, the amount of fluorine-pollution received at a certain point, and the rate of disappearance of this pollution until the river ran into a reservoir. Eight samples were taken initially but it was found that four samples were sufficient on subsequent occasions.

The first 8 samples, taken in July, gave the following results —:

<i>Point taken</i>				<i>Sample No.</i>		<i>Fluorine in p.p.m. of samples</i>	
Above point of pollution	...	...	...	No. 1	...	0.15	
„	„	„	„	„ 2	...	0.1	
„	„	„	„	„ 3	...	0.1	
Just below pollution point	...	...	...	„ 4	...	8.4	
Progressively down-stream	...	...	...	„ 5	...	5.3	
„	„	„	„	„ 6	...	3.3	
„	„	„	„	„ 7	...	0.95	
At entry of reservoir	...	...	...	„ 8	...	0.4	

Subsequent samples taken in September, October, November and December gave the following results :—

<i>Date taken</i>		<i>Well above pollution</i>		<i>Just above pollution</i>		<i>Just below pollution</i>		<i>At entry of reservoir</i>	
September	...	0.12	...	0.12	...	17.05	...	1.09	
October	...	0.09	...	0.13	...	6.44	...	1.08	
November	...	0.07	...	0.11	...	9.40	...	1.22	
December	...	0.12	...	0.18	...	5.81	...	1.37	

Fluorine in parts per million of sample.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Report of the Government Committee on Air Pollution which was published in 1954 has undoubtedly stimulated interest in this problem. Further requests were made, during the year, for additional laboratory work in connection with the measurement of atmospheric pollution and it is a matter for regret that it was not possible to accede to all such requests. The actual measurement of air pollution, by trained laboratory personnel, is an essential step in the study of its occurrence and possible prevention. The provisions of the Clean Air Bill, now before Parliament, will no doubt give further guidance in dealing with this problem.

Samples relating to atmospheric pollution were examined for nine Local Authorities in the County area during the year. The 849 samples examined show a distinct increase over the 784 samples examined last year.

The results of these measurements are given in the following Tables which also give the corresponding figures for 1954 :—

TABLE V
LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS.

<i>District</i>				<i>Site</i>			<i>Average Sulphur Pollution</i> (mgm. SO ₃ /100 sq. cm/day)	
							1954	1955
1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.11	1.48
				2	...	...	2.37	2.30
				3	...	...	2.03	2.13
2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.56	2.15
				2	...	...	1.62	1.50
				3	...	...	1.50	1.78
				4	...	...	1.55	2.34
				5	...	...	2.05	1.95
				6	...	...	2.71	2.80
3	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.37	1.65
				2	...	...	1.83	2.33
				3	...	...	1.08	1.47
4	...	...	...	1	...	...	2.56	3.27
				2	...	...	5.61	4.60
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.70	2.10
				2	...	...	1.83	2.21
				3	...	...	1.90	2.07
				4	...	...	2.34	2.30
				5	...	...	2.02	2.40
				6	...	...	2.93	2.93
				7	...	...	2.62	2.64
6	...	...	...	1	...	...	1.67	2.05
				2	...	...	2.00	2.26
7	...	...	...	A	...	...	1.01	1.59
				B	...	...	—	0.96
				C	...	...	1.48	2.29
				D	...	...	1.56	1.95
				E	...	...	1.21	1.91
				F	...	...	1.40	1.86
				G	...	...	0.99	1.18
				H	...	...	—	1.04
				I	...	...	1.03	1.72
				J	...	...	0.98	1.36
				K	...	...	1.19	1.27
				L	...	...	2.07	2.21
				N	...	...	—	1.23
				O	...	...	—	0.87
8	...	...	...	1	...	...	2.26	1.99
				2	...	...	1.18	1.55
				3	...	...	2.08	2.05
9	...	...	...	1	...	...	0.85	0.72
				2	...	...	1.15	1.30

Examination of this Table shows that in eight of the nine areas recorded there has been an increase in sulphur pollution over the previous year varying from 1.0% to 34.1%. The remaining area showed a decrease of 3.7%.

A clean rural atmosphere gives an average sulphur pollution figure of about 0.25 mgm SO₃/100 sq. cm/day while a heavily polluted industrial area gives a figure of about 5 mgm SO₃/100 sq. cm/day.

TABLE VI

RAINWATER DEPOSIT GAUGES.

<i>District</i>	<i>Gauge No.</i>	<i>Annual Rainfall</i> (inches)		<i>Annual Solid Deposit</i> (tons/sq. mile)	
		1954	1955	1954	1955
1	D1445	34.11	22.83	208.6	156.9
	D1034	29.85	17.78	163.9	121.5
	D311	25.31	24.76	125.7	130.9
2	D150	31.22	22.27	177.0	155.0
	D312	32.07	26.05	218.4	227.0
3	D131	44.88	26.77	196.2	222.4
	D895	40.80	24.68	181.2	186.4
	D234	41.58	25.87	144.0	127.3
4	D353	31.54	23.87	241.0	215.8
	D354	32.35	23.81	168.7	172.6
5	D243	33.26	24.37	216.8	217.7
	D244	31.21	24.17	374.2	323.0
	D245	33.73	26.71	221.5	247.3
	D246	25.88	23.93	264.6	244.5
6	D374	28.57	23.92	149.9	151.9
	D376	30.97	24.10	176.8	162.9
7	D349	—	20.09	—	102.3
	D350	—	18.96	—	159.7
	D351	—	17.72	—	87.0
	D352	—	22.86	—	124.5
8	D690	29.62	19.77	148.4	158.7
	D691	31.07	22.71	206.4	199.9
	D1330	—	21.19	—	464.8
9	D1387	32.15	27.33	146.2	114.7

In connection with this Table it should be noted that Gauge No. D1330 from Area No. 8 is being used for measuring an unusually heavy but very localised pollution.

There was a notable decrease in rainfall this year as compared with the previous year and in six out of the eight areas recorded for both years there has been a decrease in the amount of solid matter deposited. Excluding the special case of Gauge No. D1330, the highest figure recorded this year for solid deposit is 323.0 tons per square mile as against a figure of 374.2 tons per square mile in 1954. The lowest figure recorded, at a station not previously measured, is of 87.0 tons per square mile as compared with last year's minimum figure of 125.7 tons per square mile.

MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES.

Eighty-four samples grouped under this heading may be sub-divided as follows :—

(a) *Samples from Local and Other Authorities.*

Sixty-five samples are included in this group of which 27 consist of foods usually submitted on complaint. Of six *Milk Powders* received from schools and clinics three contained insignificant amounts of charred milk powder while one sample of a brand of milk powder supplied to a clinic was found to differ slightly from a retail pack of the same brand. Of three samples of *Milk* only one was abnormal since it contained a trace of blood. A sample of *Flavoured Milk* consisted of milk containing $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of sugar and small amounts of flavouring and colouring. A *Flavoured Milk Tablet* was made from half-cream and not full-cream milk powder. Ten tablets were barely equivalent to one-third of a pint of such poor quality milk and were of such an unattractive flavour that it is difficult to believe that anyone would willingly consume ten such tablets. The three samples of *Ice Lollies* and the single samples of *Canned Pineapple*, *Butter*, *Bulls-Eyes*, *Rum*, *Rum and Aniseed*, and the two *Pickling Liquors* were all of satisfactory composition. A sample of *Bread* contained patches of oily dirt and a sample of *Cheese* was rancid. A sample of *Rock* was contaminated with sawdust while another *Sweetmeat* had a covering of grated coconut which was rancid. A sample of *Orangeade* smelt strongly of disinfectant and was found to contain 40 parts per million of phenolic substances while a sample of *Vinegar* contained a deposit of vegetable debris, moulds and yeasts.

Fourteen samples were received from other departments of the Staffordshire County Council and included six samples of *Soap* from School Health ; four samples of *Anti-freeze Fluid* from the County Transport Officer ; two *Oil-Sump Deposits* from another department for identification and two samples from the County Architect's Department, one of *Coal* and one of *Laundry Fluff*.

Of the remaining twenty-four samples in this group eight were *Water* samples. Two of these samples which were submitted by the military authorities at Sudbury Camp were in connection with a complaint by civilian employees that the tea made in their canteen on Monday morning always had an objectionable taste. Chemical analysis showed that the water was of satisfactory quality. It was known, however, that the camp water supply was a chlorinated river water and it was suggested, as a probable explanation, that if such a water remained in the water pipes and installations of this particular building over the week-end it might develop an objectionable taste owing to the formation

of chlor-compounds. This seemed to be confirmed by the fact that when sufficient water was run to waste on Monday mornings no further complaints were received.

Another water sample, from a local Ordnance Factory, also had an unpleasant taste though it was otherwise satisfactory. It was found that the water was softened by passing through a phenolic base-exchange resin and then chlorinated. When this particular method of softening was discarded no further complaints were received.

Four specimens connected with two cases of suspected poisoning were examined. In the first case a specimen of *Stomach Washings* was found to contain no mercury or mercury compound, as suspected. In the second case the *blood*, *gastric contents* and *cerebro-spinal fluid* were examined for the presence of barbiturates. The quantity of barbiturate present was sufficient to have caused death and also to be identified as buto-barbitone.

A *Kettle-deposit* was examined for the presence of copper; *Oil-soaked Sawdust* had its oil content determined; a *Compost* was examined for manurial value and a *Rag Flock* was tested for compliance with the requirements of the Rag Flock Act.

The last samples in this group consist of eight samples of *Grass* taken from various points near a factory which emits fluorine-containing fumes. The amount of fluorine found in the samples varied from 5.4 to 134.0 parts per million of fluorine in the moisture-free grass. Published figures suggest that fluorine contamination of herbage exceeding 25.0 parts per million of dry matter is liable to cause symptoms of poisoning in cattle.

(b) *Private Samples.*

Nineteen samples are included in this group.

Six *Waters* were received from private individuals or firms. These included a brook water suspected of sewage contamination; an aquarium water which failed to sustain fish life; a distilled water for check against B.P. specification; a water for estimation of ammonia content as a check against faulty refrigeration plant and two ground waters for determination of possible aggressive action on portland cement.

Of the five samples of *Food and Drugs* one milk and two sausages were submitted by producer and manufacturer respectively. A tablet consisting of a prescribed drug was submitted by a solicitor, on behalf of a client, for identification, and it was found to contain aspirin, phenacetin and caffeine. A sample of a local anaesthetic was submitted for analysis by one of the hospitals in Stoke-on-Trent.

Five *Pathological* specimens concerning two cases were examined. Four specimens of a dog's viscera were all found to contain strychnine. A specimen of urine was examined on behalf of a person charged with being "drunk in charge." It is regarded as advisable that such specimens should be examined as soon as possible after being collected and that any period of storage should be in a refrigerator. This specimen was received after remaining for nine days in the defendant's car. It is of

some interest, therefore, that the amount of alcohol found which was 100 mgm/100 mls agreed exactly with the amount found by the analyst for the prosecution who, presumably, analysed the specimen shortly after it was taken.

The remaining three samples consisted of *Cattle Foods* submitted in connection with cases of suspected poisoning. One was apparently satisfactory but the second sample contained a trace of castor seed and the third sample had deteriorated badly.

MILK SUPPLY

Work continued during the year in the various ways in which the Department tries to ensure that all milk reaches the consumer in a clean and wholesome condition and free from disease-producing organisms. Tables are given which show the number of samples of retail milk of the various grades which have been collected, while figures of samples taken during the year at schools, hospitals, institutions, etc., in the County are given in separate paragraphs. The table of street milk samples collected shows the trend in the types of milk samples. "Accredited" milk has disappeared from the table (it ceased to be a recognised designation on the 1st October, 1954) and the number of undesignated milk samples collected has further decreased as compared with the figure for 1954. On the other hand, the number of samples of "Tuberculin Tested," "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)," Pasteurised and Sterilised milks has again increased as compared with 1954.

The scheduling of "Specified Areas" made further progress during the year as a result of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, which operated from 6th December, 1955. This brought the following areas of the County within the requirements as to the sale of only the specially-designated milks :—

The Boroughs of Lichfield and Tamworth.

The Rural Districts of Lichfield and Tutbury.

As a result of this, by the end of the year approximately 83% of the population of the Administrative County were living in areas where only Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin-tested milks were on sale. The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, are responsible for the enforcement of these Orders, except of course in the areas of those Authorities which are themselves Food and Drugs Authorities.

The County Council is also responsible for the licensing and supervision of milk pasteurising and sterilising plants within its "Food and Drugs" area, and the plants and dairies are closely supervised and regular routine visits of inspection made for the purpose by the County Sanitary Officers. During the year under review two additional dairies were licensed. The first was for the pasteurising of milk and this was an interesting case in that the milk is produced, pasteurised, bottled and retailed by the same dairyman. The other new licence was for the sterilisation of milk on quite a large scale. At the end of the year four pasteurising and three sterilising licences were in operation.

Samples of retail milk ("street milks") are taken by the Department throughout the Administrative Area except in the areas of Authorities who are themselves Food and Drugs Authorities. The

exception is the Municipal Borough of Rowley Regis, where the County Council staff, by arrangement, undertake milk sampling on their behalf and report the results to the Rowley Regis Health Department. During 1955, 122 samples were taken under this arrangement, including samples collected from schools and school canteens in the area. These samples are not included in any tables elsewhere in this report.

The samples of retail milk are subjected to appropriate tests. "Raw" milks are examined for cleanliness (the methylene blue test) and for the presence of the organisms of tuberculosis. Processed milks are also examined for cleanliness and in addition are tested for the efficiency of the pasteurising or sterilising process. As a check, a proportion of the samples of pasteurised milk has also been submitted to the test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. During 1955, 70 samples were thus examined and all proved negative.

The work of milk sampling is carried out throughout the Administrative "Food and Drugs" Area by two sampling officers, apart from occasional special samples which may be collected by the County Sanitary Officers in the course of their duties.

Action taken upon the results of the samples is as follows :—

The results of all the retail samples are notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the districts where the milk was sampled. In the case of "raw" milks the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the County where the milk was produced is notified of unsatisfactory samples, since the responsibility for clean milk production rests upon these officers. Unfortunately no information is received in the Department as to action taken by them as a result of the notification of unsatisfactory samples. Unsatisfactory samples of heat-processed milks are dealt with by this Department if from pasteurising or sterilising plants licensed by the County Council. Otherwise, they are referred for action to the Medical Officer of Health of the Food and Drugs Authority concerned. All tubercular positive milk samples are reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and to the Medical Officers of Health of the Districts where the milk was produced and retailed. The Ministry's officers take steps to find the cow or cows which are secreting tubercle bacilli in their milk, and to have them slaughtered, while the Medical Officer of Health has powers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, to place restrictions upon the sale of such milk for human consumption.

The tables which follow show details of the samples collected, together with the results of the various tests applied thereto. The first table is a summary of all street milk samples collected. Those taken from schools and various institutions are dealt with separately in later paragraphs. So far as the cleanliness (methylene blue) test is concerned the only change is a distinct falling off in the standard of the undesignated samples. The results of the phosphatase test on pasteurised milk continue to show a very high percentage of satisfactory samples. It speaks well for the control of these plants that only 11 out of 2,415 samples of pasteurised milk examined failed to pass the test for correct heat treatment. It is further of some interest to note that only one of these eleven sample failures was of milk processed at a plant supervised by the County Council.

So far as biological testing is concerned (i.e. for the detection of the organisms of tuberculosis) the percentage of positives overall is much the same as last year, but in this case all the positives were upon samples of undesignated milk, and the percentage for this type of milk has thus increased from the previous year. The total samples submitted to the biological test was 1,364 as against 2,160 in 1954, and the number found to be tubercular positive was 21 as against 34 in 1954. The number of samples which can be submitted for biological examination depends of course upon the supply of guinea pigs. Moreover, as the number of undesignated samples decreases less guinea pigs are needed for these tests, and other biological work, as outlined below, can be expanded. Arising out of the 21 positive samples, 13 cows were found by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to be affected with tuberculosis and were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

The second table shows the number of undesignated milk samples collected in each of the sanitary districts of the Administrative Area, together with the results of the examinations. This table also shows how the districts are affected by the Specified Areas Orders. It may be mentioned here that isolated instances have occurred where dairymen have been found selling undesignated milk after the operative date of one of these Orders. The reason given has usually been delay in obtaining bottles and caps, or misunderstanding of the terms of the Order, but these cases have been given close attention and no difficulty has so far occurred in obtaining due compliance.

Apart from the routine " street milk " sampling summarised in the two tables, a number of samples were collected for biological examination only, in accordance with the duty expressly laid upon County Councils by Section 8 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 (now replaced by Section 31 and the Sixth Schedule of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955). Forty-one samples were taken at certain dairies in the County of farm milks coming in for heat treatment. Three positive samples were obtained and one tubercular cow was found in the subsequent investigations. Also 182 bulk samples of milk were taken at undesignated farms in certain areas of the County, and 17 of these proved positive. Nineteen cows have so far been found to be affected with tuberculosis in the investigations which followed and these were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. Two cases are still under investigation.

During the year, 28 cases occurred where milk produced in Staffordshire had been sampled by outside Authorities, usually at large dairies where the milk was about to be processed, and had been reported as tubercular positive. These cases are handled by this Department and reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and also to the Medical Officer of Health of the District where the milk is produced. As a result of the investigations 22 tubercular cows were found and slaughtered.

It will be seen that as a result of the various activities for the detection of Tuberculosis in milk, a total of 55 cows were found and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. In other words these 55 animals which otherwise would probably not have been detected were eliminated as sources of tubercular milk and infectors of other animals.

Also not included in the tables was a total of 1,003 samples collected by the Sampling Officers while visiting schools and school canteens, for informal examination under the Food and Drugs Acts (i.e. for fat and non-fatty solids content). This work is carried out as an administrative convenience and the results are notified to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures. Only seven of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory, as against 17 of the 1,200 samples collected in 1954.

Examinations for the presence of hypochlorite residuals in milk were continued during the year under review and 127 samples were examined but in no case was any positive evidence found.

The following is a summary of all the samples of milk collected by the Department during the year :—

Retail (“ Street ”) Milks	...	...	...	4,718
Schools...	...	...	...	1,029
Institutions, School Canteens, etc.	...	...	...	505
Rowley Regis samples	...	...	...	122
Sampling at dairies (for biological test only)				41
Sampling at farms (for biological test only)...				182
“ Food and Drugs ” samples	...	...	...	1,003
“ Hypochlorite ” samples	...	...	...	127
Total	...	...	...	<u>7,727</u>

SUMMARY OF "STREET" MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED (i.e. EXCLUDING SAMPLES FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS)
1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1955

Grade of Milk	Total samples taken	Methylene Blue Test (for Cleanliness)		Phosphatase Test (for correct pasteurisation) Submitted Result	Turbidity Test (for Sterilised milk) Submitted Result	Biological Test (for presence of Tuberculosis)		
		Submitted	Result			Submitted	Positive	% 1955 % 1954
Undesignated ..	*714	708	Passed 505 Failed 203	— —	— —	670	21	3.1 2.1
"Tuberculin-tested"	950	950	Passed 849 Failed 101	— —	— —	624	Nil	Nil 0.3
"Tuberculin-tested (Pasteurised)" ..	1,078	§1,005	Passed 979 Failed 26	} 2415 Passed 2404 Failed 11	— —	— —	— —	— —
"Pasteurised" ..	†1,337	§1,237	Passed 1209 Failed 28		— —	70	Nil	Nil Nil
"Sterilised" ..	639	—	— —	— —	639 Satisfactory	— —	— —	— —
TOTALS ..	4,718	3,900	Passed 3542 Failed 358			1,364	21	1.5 1.6

NOTE.—Of the 670 samples of undesignated milk submitted to the biological test, 37 were from Urban Districts, of which 1, or 2.7%, was Positive and 633 were from Rural Districts, of which 20, or 3.1%, were Positive.

*Six samples of undesignated milk were submitted to the biological test only.

†Fourteen samples of Pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test only.

§Seventy-three samples of T.T. Pasteurised milk and 86 samples of Pasteurised milk were declared void on the methylene blue test, owing to high atmospheric shade temperature on certain dates.

UNDESIGNATED MILK SAMPLES
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

Sanitary District	No. of Samples Submitted	RESULT OF EXAMINATION			T.B.		
		CLEANLINESS			Sub- mitted	Posi- tive	% Positive
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	% Unsatis- factory			
URBAN :							
*Aldridge ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Amblecote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Biddulph ..	3	3	—	—	3	—	—
*Bilston ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Brownhills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Coseley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Darlaston ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Kidsgrove ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leek ..	20	13	7	35.0	17	—	—
§Lichfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Rugeley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Sedgley ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stone ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
§Tamworth	12	10	2	16.6	2	—	—
*Tettenhall ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Tipton ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttoxeter ..	16	10	6	37.5	15	1	6.6
*Wednesbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Wednesfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Willenhall ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL :							
*Cannock ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheadle ..	207	155	52	25.1	196	5	2.5
Leek ..	135	92	43	31.1	136	6	4.4
†Lichfield ..	45	36	9	20.9	42	1	2.4
Newcastle ..	44	36	8	18.2	42	2	4.8
*Seisdon ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
‡Stafford ..	44	31	13	29.5	42	1	2.3
Stone ..	66	49	17	25.7	64	1	1.5
§Tutbury ..	40	29	11	27.5	40	2	5.0
Uttoxeter ..	75	40	35	46.6	71	2	2.8
Totals ..	708	505	203	28.7	670	21	3.1

* Specified Area during whole of year under review.

‡ One parish only included within a Specified Area.

† One parish only included in a Specified Area until 6th December, 1955 when the whole of the district was included within a Specified Area.

§ Specified Areas as from 6th December, 1955.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

At the end of the year under review the position regarding the supply of milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme to the various schools in the Administrative Area (excluding Newcastle Excepted District) was as follows :—

Type of Milk	Schools sampled by Staffs. C.C.		Schools sampled by Food & Drugs Authorities (Brierley Hill U.D., Cannock U.D., Stafford M.B.)		No. of children supplied (figures from the Education Dept.)	
	No. of suppliers	No. of schools supplied	Suppliers	Schools	Total	As % of total
Pasteurised ...	51	514	7	91	99,060	99.43
Tuberculin-tested ...	13	17	Nil	Nil	525	0.53
Undesignated ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	44	0.04
Totals ...	66	533	7	91	99,629	—

Four schools were without a supply of liquid milk at the end of the year.

All the supplies are subject to the approval of the County Medical Officer and normally a supply of pasteurised milk is insisted upon if it can be obtained. Failing this, a supply of Tuberculin-tested milk is obtained whenever possible. It will be seen from the above table that the number of children not receiving pasteurised milk is a very small percentage of the total.

School milk supplies are sampled as a routine twice a term after delivery to the schools. Raw milks (i.e. Tuberculin-tested and undesignated) are examined bacteriologically (for cleanliness) and biologically (for the presence of disease organisms). Pasteurised milks are subjected to the phosphatase test (for efficient pasteurisation) and the methylene blue test (for cleanliness). The number of samples collected at schools during 1955 was 1,029. Of these, 32 failed to conform with the required standard of cleanliness. This is an improvement on the figures for 1954, when 38 failed out of a total of 1,019 samples. In the case of unsatisfactory samples of raw milks, the supplier and/or producer are notified, also the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and repeat samples are taken. When considered necessary the producer's premises are also visited by the County Sanitary Staff. If no improvement is then forthcoming it is recommended to the Director of Education that the supply of milk from such source is stopped, and attempts are made to obtain a supply from a source which can be approved.

During the year, 933 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test, 5 being unsatisfactory. This again is an improvement on the year 1954, when 11 samples were unsatisfactory out of a total of 879 samples. Unsatisfactory samples of pasteurised milk

processed in the Administrative County (excluding areas of Food and Drugs Authorities) are investigated by the County Sanitary Officers, whether the test failed is the phosphatase test or the methylene blue test. In other cases the sample failures are reported to the Medical Officer of Health of the licensing authority concerned for appropriate action.

During the year 1955 it happened that in the case of a certain supply of pasteurised milk, several samples were unsatisfactory, service left much to be desired, and conditions at the processor's premises were not considered of a satisfactory standard for a supplier of school milk. As this supplier had given trouble in the past it was thought desirable to terminate the contract. Accordingly the supply of milk from this particular source was stopped and arrangements were made for an approved supply of pasteurised milk to be substituted.

As regards the biological examinations, where tubercle bacilli or brucella abortus organisms are found the school milk supply is stopped immediately and is not resumed from that particular source until the herd is free from infection. In the meantime, where possible, alternative arrangements are made so that the school continues to receive a supply of milk. During the year under review 93 samples were submitted to the biological test but no positives were found. The gradual but progressive elimination of raw school milk supplies is reflected in the decrease in the number of samples found to contain pathogenic organisms, viz. :—

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
5	3	4	2	Nil	Nil

GENERAL.

Apart from the foregoing, sampling was undertaken during the year at certain private schools, hospitals, sanatoria, institutions and school canteens. Of 505 samples collected, 37 were unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint. Four hundred and thirty-nine samples were submitted to the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation and 13 of these were found to be unsatisfactory. These failures were appropriately dealt with.

One sample of sterilised milk was collected and was satisfactory upon test.

Thirty-four samples were submitted to the biological test and all were reported as negative.

HOUSING.

In the Report for the year 1954 an account was given of the re-opening by local authorities generally of the campaign against slums and unfit houses.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required local authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by 30th August, 1955, proposals for dealing with the unfit houses in their district. In November, 1955, a summary of these Returns for

England and Wales was presented to Parliament by the Minister. In Table I the Returns for the various authorities within the County of Stafford are summarised, including, as a matter of interest, the County Boroughs. These figures are extremely interesting and appear to show some notable differences in the various authorities' estimates of the size of the problem in their areas and the manner in which they intend to tackle the problem. So far as the Rural Districts are concerned, the figures obtained as a result of the "Hobhouse Survey," which was carried out at the end of the last war, form a useful supplement to the figures given in Table I, and the final figures from the "Hobhouse Survey" are accordingly shown in Table III.

In the 1954 Report, attention was called to certain amendments of the Housing Act, 1949, dealing with Improvement Grants, and designed to secure that more owners would apply for grants towards the modernisation of privately-owned structurally-sound houses. The new Act came into operation in August, 1954, so that the amended provisions were in force for the whole of the year under review. The opportunity has therefore been taken to include in this Report a summary of the work carried out in the Administrative County under the Improvements Grants provisions during the year ended 31st December, 1955. This summary is given in Table II. It will be noted that these provisions of the Act are not being operated at all by the Biddulph authority. In the case of Coseley, the Council will only consider applications where additional bedroom accommodation is being provided in cases of need. Seven other applications were received by this authority for other works which did not comply with the policy laid down.

The overall picture for the County seems to be that, while the work done varies substantially from one district to another, and while the amount of work done in total cannot be said to be large, these grants are at the same time making a useful contribution to the improvement of housing conditions in the County. A total of 724 properties appear to have been dealt with by these grants during the year (excluding the Borough of Tipton, for which no figures are available).

HOUSING — TABLE I

Housing Authority	Total No. of permanent houses in area	Estimated No. of unfit houses	ACTION IN FIRST FIVE YEARS			No. of houses to be retained for temporary accommodation
			No. of Houses to be demolished		Total No. of houses to be demolished	
			Individual Houses	Houses in Clearance Areas		
<i>County Boroughs :</i>						
Burton-upon-Trent	15,212	264	264	—	264	—
Stoke-on-Trent	82,393	12,000	1,000	5,042	6,042	—
Walsall	34,500	2,782	150	1,589	1,739	—
West Bromwich	26,066	4,000	900	500	1,400	1,000
Wolverhampton	44,065	5,600	250	2,250	2,500	—
<i>Boroughs :</i>						
Bilston	9,583	1,798	7	1,221	1,228	80
Lichfield	3,281	160	—	160	160	—
Newcastle	22,473	1,638	168	1,470	1,638	—
Rowley Regis	14,081	777	166	611	777	—
Stafford	11,146	651	130	430	560	65
Tamworth	4,050	461	—	300	300	—
Tipton	10,627	1,302	838	464	1,302	—
Wednesbury	10,040	780	9	771	780	—
<i>Urban Districts :</i>						
Aldridge	8,910	224	36	188	224	—
Amblecote	970	70	25	—	25	—
Biddulph	4,206	40	25	15	40	—
Brierley Hill	14,805	1,149	522	627	1,149	—
Brownhills	6,141	676	41	635	676	—
Cannock	11,205	700	20	244	264	—
Coseley	9,927	2,040	200	1,000	1,200	—
Darlaston	6,258	572	102	470	572	—

HOUSING — TABLE I (*continued*)

Housing Authority	Total No. of permanent houses in area	Estimated No. of unfit houses	ACTION IN FIRST FIVE YEARS				No. of houses to be retained for temporary accommodation
			No. of Houses to be demolished			Total No. of houses to be demolished	
			Individual Houses	Houses in Clearance Areas			
<i>Urban Districts (continued) :</i>							
Kidsgrove ...	5,300	1,438	100	365		465	—
Leek ...	6,106	470	20	450		470	—
Rugeley ...	3,262	60	60	—		60	—
Sedgley ...	6,819	266	132	134		266	—
Stone ...	2,689	107	12	95		107	—
Tettenhall ...	3,432	237	88	92		180	—
Uttoxeter ...	2,424	91	49	42		91	—
Wednesfield ...	6,269	588	117	294		411	—
Willenhall ...	8,712	1,100	215	285		500	—
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Cannock ...	6,250	93	59	—		59	—
Cheadle ...	9,671	284	92	112		204	—
Leek ...	4,029	496	100	—		100	—
Lichfield ...	10,308	271	137	134		271	—
Newcastle ...	5,435	442	102	240		342	—
Seisdon ...	7,906	295	295	—		295	—
Stafford ...	4,500	474	200	274		474	—
Stone ...	4,537	197	51	60		111	—
Tutbury ...	4,954	188	50	138		188	—
Uttoxeter ...	3,071	192	147	45		192	—

HOUSING — TABLE II

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS — SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

District	Number of Applications			Number granted		Total value of work involved £	Total value of Grants £
	Dealt with	Refused	Withdrawn	Owner-Occupiers	Others		
<i>Boroughs :</i>							
Bilston	11	5	2	4	—	Not known	405
Lichfield	7	2	1	2	2	3,734	1,867
Newcastle	85	41	1	40	3	Not known	6,354
Rowley Regis	28	3	1	22	2	6,132	3,016
Stafford	62	5	9	48	—	15,655	7,034
Tamworth	21	—	—	18	3	3,805	1,739
Tipton	...	...	...	FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE		...	...
Wednesbury	8	1	3	7	1	2,350	361
<i>Urban Districts :</i>							
Aldridge	26	7	11	7	1	2,067	799
Amblecote	2	—	1	1	—	180	80
Biddulph	...	...	...	SCHEME NOT OPERATED		...	...
Brierley Hill...	34	—	1	30	3	11,362	4,677
Brownhills	25	4	6	13	2	3,806	1,903
Cannock	29	1	—	22	6	5,991	2,995
Coseley	5	2	2	1	—	500	250
Darlaston	10 involving 19 houses	—	—	7	12	7,437	2,435
Kidsgrove	*35	6	6	7	—	2,130	906
Leek	11	1	—	9	1	4,600	2,248
Rugeley	†17	8	3	2	1	701	272
Sedgley	8	—	—	7	1	2,687	1,278
Stone	20	—	—	7	13	7,928	3,612
Tettenhall	12	—	—	9	3	8,000	3,921
Uttoxeter	8	—	—	8	—	1,931	937
Wednesfield	7	1	1	5	—	2,475	817
Willenhall	10	3	—	3	7	2,013	1,006

HOUSING — TABLE II (*continued*)

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS — SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

District	Number of Applications			Number granted		Total value of work involved £	Total value of Grants £
	Dealt with	Refused	Withdrawn	Owner-Occupiers	Others		
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Cannock ...	63	2	—	31	30	29,000	13,526
Cheadle ...	37	3	—	29	5	14,721	6,882
Leek ...	48	2	6	36	10	25,048	11,095
Lichfield ...	24	—	3	11	13	17,847	7,305
Newcastle ...	21	6	1	10	4	6,082	2,600
Seisdon ...	55	5	1	20	29	34,232	14,615
Stafford ...	25	—	2	11	12	13,637	5,936
Stone ...	51	—	4	16	35	38,802	10,730
Tutbury ...	38	—	—	17	21	18,866	8,640
Uttoxeter ...	44	1	1	20	24	20,322	9,350

* 16 applications pending.

† Includes 3 preliminary enquiries approved in principle.

HOUSING — TABLE III

FINAL FIGURES OF "HOBHOUSE SURVEY" CARRIED OUT BY RURAL DISTRICTS AFTER THE END OF THE LAST WAR

District	No. of houses surveyed	CLASSIFICATION *				
		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Cannock	4,300	589	1,241	2,278	92	100
Cheadle	5,631	2,226	2,005	890	—	510
Leek	4,959	1,278	796	2,212	177	496
Lichfield	7,065	3,042	1,514	1,691	351	467
Newcastle	3,537	1,113	1,056	1,146	2	220
Seisdon	4,230	2,741	721	547	—	221
Stafford	3,805	964	1,098	899	370	474
Stone	2,500	935	768	640	—	157
Tutbury	3,117	1,598	524	589	—	406
Uttoxeter	1,949	299	573	447	442	188

* Classification was as follows :—

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Category 1. | Satisfactory in all respects. |
| " | Minor defects. |
| " | Major repairs or structural alterations required. |
| " | Suitable for action under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. |
| " | Totally unfit and should be demolished. |

WATER SUPPLIES, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

For the financial year 1955-56 a sum of £48,034 was contributed by the County Council to District Councils towards the cost of water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

The following is a list of schemes considered by the Health Department during 1955 for grants or loans under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944 and 1951, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

In all, during the year, schemes of water supply estimated to cost £91,592 and schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal estimated to cost £199,194 were considered by the Health Department.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Cheadle Rural District—Mains extensions to Consall.

The scheme, estimated to cost £5,025, was to provide a mains supply to the village from the Rural District Council's existing reservoir at Rangemoor and was recommended for approval in principle.

Newcastle Rural District—Water main extension to Butterton.

The scheme, estimated to cost £3,273, was to provide a main to the village from an existing main in Seabridge Lane and was also recommended for approval.

Tutbury Rural District—Water mains extensions in the parishes of Dunstall and Wychnor.

The Wychnor extensions were estimated to cost £1,750 and the Dunstall extension £3,194. Substantial offers towards the cost were made by owners who were likely to benefit from the schemes. Both schemes were recommended for approval.

Uttoxeter Rural District—Water mains extensions, parishes of Mayfield, Ellastone, Stanton and Wootton.

This scheme, which included certain suggestions by the Health Department improving an earlier scheme put forward in 1953, was estimated to cost £78,350.

The scheme was comparatively expensive but the area to be served is widely scattered and includes long lengths of unproductive mains.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Brownhills Urban District—Gravity sewer, pumping station and rising main, Sandhills.

The scheme, originally estimated to cost £6,468, was to replace a number of cesspools in the Sandhills area with a sewerage system and to pump the sewage from a collecting pump well to the head of the nearest gravity sewer.

In addition to the nuisances arising from defective cesspools it was alleged that the nearby South Staffs. water pumping station was subject to potential pollution from the individual cesspools and from the overflow from a large cesspool dealing with a number of houses.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

Rugeley Urban District—Sewer, Hednesford Road.

The need for the new sewer arose from the fact that some 650 houses were connected to an already overloaded sewer and the new sewer would also permit the connection of other properties not provided with sewerage facilities. The cost was estimated to be £11,500 and, subject to minor adjustments, the scheme was recommended for approval.

Cheadle Rural District—Ipstones.

The scheme, estimated to cost £24,620, was to provide new sewers and a new disposal works to replace the existing ineffective and overloaded system. Subject to the deletion of one length of sewer the justification for which was difficult to substantiate, the scheme was recommended for approval.

Lichfield Rural District—Shenstone.

The scheme was an amended one replacing that considered by the Health Committee in 1954.

The scheme was to provide new disposal works and extra sewers to deal with the village of Shenstone.

The original scheme included a length of sewer to Wood End which the Health Committee did not recommend for inclusion in the scheme. The amended scheme omits this particular length of sewer and some other sewers are re-sited.

The scheme estimated to cost £51,776 was recommended for approval.

Newcastle Rural District—Betley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The scheme, estimated to cost £62,800, is to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for the village of Betley. Certain parts of the village have small or inefficient disposal units, but the greater part is unsewered and pollution of ditches and water courses is taking place.

The scheme will also provide for certain properties in the Nantwich Rural Area which adjoins Betley and for which a contribution towards the scheme from the Nantwich Rural District Council is expected.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

Seisdon Rural District—Bobbington—Sewerage.

This scheme, to provide sewers in the hamlet of Bobbington, is the remaining part of the scheme considered by the Health Committee in 1952, only part of which (the provision of sewage disposal works and a short length of sewer) was carried out.

The cost was estimated to be £5,316 and the scheme was recommended for approval.

Stafford Rural District—Cresswell and Great Bridgeford—Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.

This scheme was a combination of two earlier schemes.

Originally it was proposed to pump sewage from Cresswell into the nearby Stafford Borough sewers. It was later found that the Borough sewers were unable to cope with the additional flow, and accordingly this scheme was amended to pump the sewage to the new disposal works under construction at Great Bridgeford which were enlarged to deal with the extra flow.

The cost of the combined scheme was £24,763 and it was recommended for approval.

Stone Rural District—Yarnfield, sewerage and sewage disposal works.

This scheme, estimated to cost £4,070, was to provide sewerage facilities for the hamlet of Yarnfield and to dispose of the sewage by arrangement with the Ministry of Supply's disposal works nearby.

This scheme replaced an earlier scheme considered by the Health Committee in 1951.

Owing to the high cost and maintenance expenditure for a comparatively few properties and the lack of security to the Stone Rural District Council for the use of the Ministry of Supply's disposal plant, the scheme was not recommended for approval.

It was also suggested that the Rural District Council should give consideration to a small, simple type of disposal plant in lieu of their present suggested scheme.

Tutbury Rural District.

Surface water sewer at Tutbury.

The scheme, originally estimated to cost £4,551, was to replace an existing surface water sewer which was in bad structural condition and incapable of dealing with the amount of storm water reaching it. Extensive flooding had taken place in the past and increasing development would tend to aggravate the position.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

Barton Gate—Sewer extension.

This scheme to provide sewerage facilities in the Barton Gate area at an estimated cost of £3,350 was an amended scheme replacing one considered in 1954.

The amended scheme made the connection of houses to the new sewer a good deal easier and also it was found that the line of the sewer in the original scheme was over ground of doubtful load-bearing capacity.

The scheme was recommended for approval.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held Inquiries into the following schemes at all of which the Health Department was represented :—

- 15th March.* Uttoxeter Rural District : Ellastone, Wootton, Stanton and Mayfield Water Scheme.
- 29th June.* Kidsgrove Urban District : Proposed new sewage disposal works at Red Bull and proposed new trunk sewer from Rookery Works to Red Bull Works.
- 30th June.* Stafford Rural District : Great Bridgeford and Cresswell combined sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.
- 8th Sept.* Stafford Rural District : Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Engineering Inspector's visit regarding the Gnosall sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.
- 2nd Nov.* Cheadle Rural District : Ipstones sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.

All sewage disposal works on which the County Council are paying grants towards the cost continue to be visited and samples of effluent taken by the County Sanitary Inspectors to ensure that they are properly maintained.

There was a falling off of the number of schemes considered this year compared with 1954. This, however, is perhaps not unexpected since a large number of schemes previously considered are still either under consideration by the Ministry or starting dates for commencing work have not been given.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following statistics relate to the notifiable infectious diseases amongst the home population during the calendar year 1955. On reference to the tables at the end of the Report the numbers and death-rates for each Sanitary District will be found.

SMALLPOX.—No case of Smallpox was notified in 1955. The last cases recorded were in 1947, when an outbreak occurred in the south of the County, mainly in Bilston.

SCARLET FEVER.—There was a decrease in the incidence of this disease, 627 cases having been notified, compared with 895 in 1954. In the Urban Districts there were 467 cases and in the Rural Districts 160, as against 661 and 234 respectively in the previous year. The case-rates per thousand of the population were :—Urban Districts 0.70, Rural Districts 0.71, with a total County Rate of 0.70, whilst that for England and Wales was 0.73. The corresponding rates for 1954 were 1.01, 1.05, 1.02 and 0.97 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA.—There was an increase in the incidence of this disease, for 29 notifications were made, compared with 16 in the previous year. In the Urban Districts there were 10 cases, as against 16, and in the Rural Districts 19 as against nil. The total case-rate was 0.03, whilst that for England and Wales was 0.00, as against 0.02 and 0.00 respectively in the previous year.

Two deaths occurred.

In 1954 there were no deaths from this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Six notifications of enteric fever were made during the year as against three in 1954. Two cases were of typhoid and four of paratyphoid. Four cases (including the two cases of typhoid) occurred in Urban Districts.

The three cases notified in 1954, one of typhoid and two of paratyphoid, occurred in Urban Districts.

The 1955 case-rates for the country as a whole, for typhoid and paratyphoid, were 0.00 and 0.02 per thousand of the population respectively, the Staffordshire rates being 0.00 and 0.00.

MEASLES.—During the period, 13,610 notifications were made, which indicates an appreciable increase, for the corresponding figure for 1954 was 2,892. Ten thousand, six hundred and twenty-three cases occurred in Urban and 2,987 in Rural Districts, compared with 1,565 and 1,327 in the previous year. The 1955 case-rates for the County and England and Wales were 15.29 and 15.61 as against 3.30 and 3.32 in 1954.

Five deaths occurred in Urban Districts and two in Rural Districts, the death-rates being 0.01 and 0.01 respectively. There were two deaths in 1954.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There was again a marked decrease in the number of notifications, 1,057 being made in 1955, as compared with 1,947 in 1954 and 3,495 in 1953. In the Urban Districts there were 848, as against 1,440, whilst the corresponding figures for the Rural Districts were 209 and 507. The case-rate for the County was 1.19 and for England and Wales, 1.78.

There were no deaths during the year. In 1954, four deaths were due to this cause.

DYSENTERY.—Three hundred and seventy-four notifications were made in 1955 as compared with 879 in 1954, 54 in 1953 and 134 in 1952. Twenty-two of the 35 Sanitary Districts were affected, but in five instances, viz., Darlaston U.D., Stone U.D., Willenhall U.D., Leek R.D. and Seisdon R.D., single cases only were notified.

Cases notified in other districts were as follows :—Aldridge U.D. 4, Bilston M.B. 11, Brierley Hill U.D. 2, Cannock U.D. 18, Coseley U.D. 3, Lichfield M.B. 7, Newcastle M.B. 167, Rowley Regis M.B. 2, Rugeley U.D. 2, Stafford M.B. 66, Tipton M.B. 5, Wednesfield U.D. 2, Cannock R.D. 28, Cheadle R.D. 5, Lichfield R.D. 23, Stafford R.D. 10 and Stone R.D. 14.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS, ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS, MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.—New regulations designed to replace former legislation were brought into operation on the 1st January, 1950. They introduced nomenclature consistent with the international standard classification of diseases and slightly extended the scope of clinical conditions notifiable under the head of acute encephalitis.

Forty-five cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, compared with 31 in 1954, 27 occurring in Urban and 18 in Rural Districts. Two cases of Acute Encephalitis were notified, the same as in the previous year. No death occurred. In 1954 there was one death in an Urban District.

One child developed Poliomyelitis a fortnight after an injection of combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough vaccine was given, not under the County Council Scheme, by a General Practitioner. The particular vaccine used has not been adopted for use by the County Council and no child is known to have developed Poliomyelitis during the year following immunisation carried out at a County Council Clinic.

Nineteen notifications of Meningococcal Infection (16 in 9 Urban areas and 3 in 3 Rural Districts) were made during 1955, compared with 18 in 1954. Four deaths occurred in Urban Districts. In the previous year there were five deaths.

The deaths from non-notifiable infectious diseases were as follows :—

GASTRITIS, ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA.—Thirteen deaths occurred in Urban Districts and one in a Rural District in children under one year of age, the death-rates being 1.27 and 0.30, respectively, per thousand live births. The figures for 1954 were 8, 3, 0.79 and 0.89 respectively.

INFLUENZA.—In 1955 there were 66 deaths in Urban and 19 in Rural Districts, as compared with 28 and 6, respectively, in 1954.

The number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases, with the deaths, in the Administrative County during 1955 are as follows :—

Diseases	Notifications		Deaths	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Smallpox	—	—	*	*
Scarlet Fever	467	160	*	*
Diphtheria	10	19	2	—
Enteric Fever	5	2	*	*
Measles	10,623	2,987	5	2
Whooping Cough	848	209	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	39	1	*	*
Erysipelas	49	21	*	*
Meningococcal Infection	16	3	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	20	16	} —	} —
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	7	2		
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	—		
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	1	—		
Pneumonia	390	81	246	94
Dysentery	292	82	*	*

* Not classified in Registrar-General's Return

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows new cases of tuberculosis, including primary notifications and cases which came to notice, otherwise than by formal notification, and deaths from the disease, classified according to age and sex :—

1955				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
AGE PERIODS				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	..	..	..	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—	..	..	..	6	1	3	3	} —	} —	} 2	} —
2—	..	..	..	12	9	5	4				
5—	..	..	..	15	15	6	1				
10—	..	..	..	13	16	4	4				
15—	..	..	..	39	33	3	6	} 1	} 1	} —	} 1
20—	..	..	..	34	51	4	3				
25—	..	..	..	58	60	5	9				
35—	..	..	..	60	24	3	3				
45—	..	..	..	73	19	4	2	} 34	} 6	} —	} 3
55—	..	..	..	53	6	2	—				
65—	..	..	..	13	8	1	—	7	—	1	—
75 and upwards	..			4	11	—	1	2	—	—	—
Totals	..			381	255	41	36	55	21	3	5

During 1955, 76 deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis and 8 from other forms of this disease, the death-rates being 0.09 and 0.01 respectively. The corresponding rates for 1954 were 0.16 and 0.04.

The table which follows shows the death-rates in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County from 1914 :—

YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION			
	Phthisis		Other forms of Tuberculosis	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1914	0.89	0.54	0.31	0.20
1915	0.94	0.67	0.34	0.29
1916	1.01	0.80	0.40	0.29
1917	1.01	0.74	0.34	0.31
1918	1.03	0.88	0.31	0.28
1919	0.83	0.61	0.22	0.30
1920	0.75	0.56	0.30	0.21
1921	0.80	0.53	0.23	0.21
1922	0.80	0.55	0.24	0.17
1923	0.75	0.58	0.25	0.22
1924	0.73	0.58	0.22	0.20
1925	0.83	0.49	0.22	0.14
1926	0.74	0.50	0.22	0.11
1927	0.73	0.44	0.21	0.22
1928	0.64	0.48	0.14	0.13
1929	0.76	0.54	0.15	0.12
1930	0.72	0.54	0.15	0.13
1931	0.78	0.52	0.17	0.13
1932	0.64	0.42	0.16	0.14
1933	0.72	0.50	0.14	0.08
1934	0.67	0.43	0.11	0.16
1935	0.67	0.35	0.13	0.08
1936	0.53	0.34	0.11	0.08
1937	0.60	0.41	0.13	0.11
1938	0.56	0.29	0.13	0.11
1939	0.52	0.35	0.09	0.11
1940	0.51	0.29	0.11	0.06
1941	0.57	0.33	0.16	0.14
1942	0.52	0.34	0.13	0.10
1943	0.55	0.29	0.11	0.07
1944	0.52	0.25	0.10	0.07
1945	0.56	0.22	0.11	0.09
1946	0.49	0.28	0.08	0.06
1947	0.47	0.28	0.09	0.07
1948	0.51	0.33	0.07	0.05
1949	0.45	0.22	0.06	0.03
1950	0.39	0.20	0.06	0.06
1951	0.37	0.12	0.05	0.04
1952	0.27	0.07	0.04	0.04
1953	0.19	0.10	0.04	0.00
1954	0.18	0.13	0.04	0.03
1955	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.01

NOTIFICATION.

The following are particulars of the primary notifications made from 1918 :—

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
856	699	642	929	971	1029	974	1232	1400	1106	1194	1017	1021	1129
1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1074	1011	929	825	831	858	789	726	669	788	830	841	798	769
1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955				
775	813	852	837	807	901	805	958	808	696				

The following table gives particulars of primary notifications of tuberculosis notified in the Administrative County each year since 1918, together with the case rates per 1,000 of the estimated population. Only from 1946 is it possible to divide these figures to show numbers of respiratory and non-respiratory notifications, and the appropriate case rates are given :—

Year	PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS			CASE RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION		
	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis (all forms)	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis (all forms)
1918			856			1.37
1919			699			1.04
1920			642			0.92
1921			929			1.29
1922			971			1.37
1923			1,029			1.45
1924			974			1.36
1925			1,232			1.71
1926			1,400			1.93
1927			1,106			1.55
1928			1,194			1.68
1929			1,017			1.43
1930			1,021			1.44
1931			1,129			1.59
1932			1,074			1.50
1933			1,011			1.41
1934			929			1.29
1935			825			1.14
1936			831			1.14
1937			858			1.16
1938			789			1.05
1939			726			0.95
1940			669			0.88
1941			788			1.01
1942			830			1.07
1943			841			1.09
1944			798			1.03
1945			769			1.00
1946	636	139	775	0.80	0.17	0.97
1947	681	132	813	0.84	0.16	1.00
1948	728	124	852	0.88	0.15	1.03
1949	713	124	837	0.85	0.15	1.00
1950	706	101	807	0.83	0.12	0.95
1951	778	123	901	0.91	0.14	1.05
1952	712	93	805	0.83	0.11	0.94
1953	864	94	958	1.00	0.11	1.10
1954	709	99	808	0.81	0.11	0.92
1955	620	76	696	0.70	0.09	0.78

The following is a summary of cases, other than primary notifications, coming to notice from other sources during the year :—

	1955
Number of cases other than primary notifications coming to knowledge within the year ...	17
Number of un-notified cases which died	4
Number of other cases which died, notification being made after death	13
Ratio of un-notified cases which died to total deaths	1 : 4.9

In 1955, roughly 11 out of 14 deaths were of cases notified under the regulations before decease.

The total notifications are classified in a preceding table.

REGISTERS OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

At the end of the year the following cases were included in these registers :—

TOTAL CASES	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
8,658	3,730	3,205	6,935	851	872	1,723

The figures given above indicate that in 1955 there was one case of tuberculosis in every 103 persons, or 9.7 per 1,000 of the population.

The table also shows that in 1955 there was one death in approximately every 104 cases.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Particulars were given in the 1952 Report regarding the arrangements for mass radiography within the area. Four units are concerned and surveys have been conducted at which wherever possible appropriate categories of officers employed by the County Council have attended, i.e., those whose employment is in any way connected with the care of children—staffs of Children’s Homes, teachers, etc.

During the year some 207 persons were examined in this way in connection with their appointments to the staff of the County Council.

In addition, 111 members of the staff of the Children’s Department engaged in the work of Children’s Homes received an annual X-ray.

Although no figures are as yet available for 1955, it is possible to give reports on the work done by two of the Units during 1954, i.e. :—

STOKE-ON-TRENT M.R. UNIT.

For the greater part of the year, the unit operated in the industrial area of North Staffordshire, where the need for case-finding appeared to be strongest. Good progress was also made with surveys in rural and semi-rural areas in Staffordshire and North Shropshire.

In a total of 69,076 persons examined, 258 active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered, of which 72 were sputum-positive. The incidence of active cases was 3.7 per 1,000 examinations, as compared with 3.6 in 1953 and 5.7 in 1952.

General practitioners' cases showed the highest prevalence (15.7 per 1,000) ; the high proportion of sputum-positive cases in this group confirmed, once more, the now well-established fact that these cases are generally in a more advanced stage than those found at routine surveys.

Radiologically manifest pneumoconiosis was found in 1,124 cases in 1954 ; of these, 53 had been previously certified by the Pneumoconiosis Board before their attendance at the unit. The large majority of the remaining 1,071 cases originated in the local pottery and mining industries.

WOLVERHAMPTON M.R. UNIT.

In July, 1954, the new premises at Oew Cross Hospital became available, and it was possible thereafter to work at base and give regular sessions to those groups known to have a high rate of active tuberculosis. In the third quarter of the year the unit was made available on each Monday morning for cases referred by general practitioners ; about 100 patients attended each week ; where the miniature film was normal, a report was available to the general practitioner within 48 hours.

Examination of contacts of notified cases was arranged by the health visitors during home visits, and 326 were examined during the year. All children with positive tuberculin tests and many of their family contacts were examined, this being arranged by the school medical department. As these Monday morning sessions became established, further groups, such as ante-natal cases, school teachers, others working in contact with children, nursing and local authority staffs, etc., were included.

Among 53,919 persons X-rayed, 192 cases of active tuberculosis were discovered, giving a rate of 3.56 per 1,000 examinations. Excluding the 42 cases among the general practitioner referrals, contacts, and those referred by the school medical department, the rate becomes 2.8 per 1,000, which is the same as that found in similar groups in 1953. The rate for the three groups referred to above is 23.6 per 1,000, over eight times as high as that found among factory workers and general public. It is, therefore, abundantly clear that every effort must be made to concentrate on these selected groups, especially patients referred by general practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITING

As was reported in the 1953 Report, three whole-time Tuberculosis Health Visitors have been appointed and the total number of visits made by the Visitors to tuberculous households was 5,114.

TUBERCULOSIS—1955, CIRCULAR 1/54.

As will be seen in a previous table there were 620 notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

Although, as stated in last year's Report, it is hoped to give reliable and complete figures regarding contact work as from the 1st January, 1956, it is possible to give an almost complete picture this year. Figures are available from 7 of the 8 Clinics dealing with contacts residing in the Administrative County and in total 3,333 contacts were examined at the Clinics or Mass Radiography Units during 1955, of which 61 were found to be tuberculous.

A Clinic in the south of the County reports less difficulty in getting all contacts of new cases to come to Clinics for examination, although there are still a few cases where adult patients are unwilling for their children to be examined and to be vaccinated with B.C.G. if that is recommended. Much less difficulty is experienced in this area in the employment of tuberculous patients than was the case a few years ago. There are a number of employers in this locality who are very interested in finding employment for tuberculous people, particularly large firms where there are Medical Officers to whom the Chest Physician can explain the condition and requirements of such people.

All contacts at the Newcastle Clinic are X-rayed and if under 16 years old the reaction to old tuberculin is ascertained. Those remaining negative after a period of about two months are offered B.C.G. vaccination with a high rate of acceptance. Tuberculin positive contacts remain under observation at the Clinic. Hospital beds are made available for active or unstable quiescent cases which become pregnant, so that they may convalesce during the critical period following confinement. In this area, which is in the north of the County, there is some difficulty in the rehabilitation and placing in industry of inactive cases, especially those with a chronic positive sputum. Some of these difficulties can be attributed to the fact that there are few light industries in the area.

EMPLOYMENT.

Generally speaking, where possible the employment of known cases of tuberculosis is dealt with by consultation with the Chest Physician and the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour. Suitable cases are referred to Rehabilitation Centres.

EARLY CASES AMONG CHILDREN AND OTHERS.

Surveys have continued to be carried out by the Mass Miniature Radiography Units of school children, in the course of which some 4,019 children of 14 years and over from 69 schools were examined during 1955.

CASES BECOMING KNOWN AFTER DEATH FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

As far as is possible full examinations are made of the contacts of those cases who were not notified as tuberculous during life.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

During the year a total of 537 cases have been vaccinated at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

CANCER

In the following table the deaths from Cancer during 1955, in age and sex groups, in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County, are shown :—

Age Groups	URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
0—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	3	3	6	—	—	—	6
15—	3	2	5	3	1	4	9
25—	40	42	82	12	15	27	109
45—	294	210	504	63	55	118	622
65—	200	156	356	51	40	91	447
75—	120	108	228	52	49	101	329
Totals	660	522	1,182	181	160	341	1,523

As will be seen from the preceding table, this year there were 1,523 deaths from Cancer. In 1954 there were 1,568 preceded by 1,455 in 1953. This year's total is the second highest number so far recorded in the Administrative County, the highest being last year. In each year since 1937 the figure has exceeded 1,000. During the period under review this group of deaths accounted for 15.8 per cent. of the total civilian deaths, as compared with 17.1 per cent. last year, when the total number of deaths from all causes was less by 430. As stated in previous Reports, there is little variation from year to year in the group of deaths from this cause which occur in persons under the age of 45 years, the current number being 125, as against 113 and 128 in 1953 and 1954, respectively.

In considering the mortality from Cancer, one must bear in mind that the general mortality from all causes under the age of 45 has, over a long period, become steadily less. This means, therefore, that in every population there exists an increasing number of persons of an age more susceptible to cancer than are younger persons, the statement being supported by the fact that whilst in 1920 48.6 per cent. of the deaths from all causes were of persons under 45, the figure has gradually decreased in the subsequent years to 11.6 per cent. in 1955.

VENEREAL DISEASES

During the year, 706 Staffordshire patients attended for diagnosis and treatment for the first time, compared with 867 in 1954, and the following detailed table indicates where it was obtained. It will be seen that in 1955, 562 of the persons who attended were found not to be infected, and the corresponding figure in the previous year was 707. The actual cases in 1954 and 1955 were 160 and 144 respectively.

TREATMENT CENTRE	Syphilis	Gonorrhœa	Other Conditions	Total New Cases
Birmingham General Hospital	7	19	71	97
Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary ..	1	1	3	5
Dudley Guest Hospital	2	23	112	137
Holloway, N.7, Royal Northern Hospital ..	—	—	1	1
Oxford Radcliffe Infirmary)	—	—	1	1
Stafford (Staffordshire General Infirmary) ..	6	11	65	82
Stoke-on-Trent (North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary)	13	8	75	96
Stoke-on-Trent (Wellesley Street)	1	5	46	52
Walsall (Manor Hospital)	4	13	38	55
Wolverhampton Royal Hospital	5	25	150	180
Totals	39	105	562	706

For comparative purposes the totals of the cases included in the foregoing table for the last twenty-one years have been extracted and are given below :—

Year	Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhœa	Total Cases	Non-Venereal
1935 ..	166	4	322	492	295
1936 ..	137	6	294	437	341
1937 ..	116	5	320	441	326
1938 ..	133	3	302	438	344
1939 ..	116	5	283	404	310
1940 ..	126	1	244	371	348
1941 ..	111	1	267	379	359
1942 ..	134	2	266	402	512
1943 ..	163	2	271	436	783
1944 ..	171	2	273	446	791
1945 ..	186	—	355	541	867
1946 ..	275	2	451	728	1,180
1947 ..	147	2	254	403	682
1948 ..	177	4	219	400	904
1949 ..	148	—	234	382	842
1950 ..	85	—	178	263	824
1951 ..	67	—	163	230	760
1952 ..	54	—	136	190	666
1953 ..	64	—	158	222	698
1954 ..	51	—	109	160	707
1955 ...	39	—	105	144	562

BLIND PERSONS

The following table gives particulars of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons registered during 1955. Of the 198 cases registered, 88 were recommended for treatment of one sort or another, and 52 of these actually received such treatment, the difference being accounted for mainly owing to refusals to have treatment due to their age.

	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :---				
(a) No treatment	24	12	—	74
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	38	8	—	42
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	21	6	—	25

The Home Teacher visits each case to see what help can be given and to ensure they obtain all assistance to which they are entitled under the Act.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

The number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year was 14. In 10 instances the confinements were domiciliary, and of these 6 were nursed at home, three were admitted to hospital and one was treated at hospital as an out-patient.

The remaining four cases were born in hospital. In every instance the condition occurred subsequent to discharge. One child was admitted to an Eye Hospital, one was treated at hospital as an out-patient and two were treated at home.

Of the 14 cases, 5 were moderately severe and 9 slight. Vision was unimpaired in every instance.

GENERAL HEALTH PROPAGANDA

During the year the facilities for the provision of general health and sex education lectures continued and talks were given to Youth Clubs, Parent/Teacher Associations and Women's Institute, etc.

In 1955, as formerly, the County Council made a grant to the Central Council for Health Education and during the year the latter again provided a speaker to give some of the talks and lectures mentioned above and also educational exhibition stands and a succession of interchangeable topic material.

The stands were in use at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics in each Area.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES

The responsibility for the medical examination and certification of the physical fitness or otherwise of persons for appointment to the staff of this Authority rests with the County Medical Officer, and during the year 627 medical examinations were undertaken, 342 by medical staff of the Department at County Council Clinics and 285 by General Practitioners and other Authorities. The figures for the previous year were 687, 293 and 394 respectively.

AREA ADMINISTRATION

In the Report for 1948 particulars of the Area Committees and of their districts and population were given, and in the Report for 1951 mention was made of the revised scheme of administration which came into operation on the 1st July, 1951. No major change has taken place since that time.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

During 1955, one new Centre was opened at 49 Olinthus Avenue, Wednesfield.

During the year the Centres at Blackshaw Moor Camp, Longnor and Perton/Wroottesley were closed.

At the end of the year there were 108 Welfare Centres in operation, of which 59 were combined (i.e., Minor Ailment Clinics and Welfare Centres) and 49 were Welfare Centres only.

The following are particulars of the number of sessions and attendances made during the year :—

No. of sessions	...	...	...	...	5,055
<hr/>					
No. of children who attended during the year and who were born in :					
1955	...	...	...	...	7,590
1954	...	...	...	...	4,623
1953—1950	...	...	...	...	4,096
<hr/>					
Total	...	...	...	...	16,309
<hr/>					

No. of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	117,113
1 but under 2	...	...	...	33,906
2 but under 5	...	...	...	30,664
<hr/>				
Total	...	...	...	181,683
<hr/>				

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

At 31st December, 1955, there were 46 Ante-Natal Clinics (special sessions being held at 34 of them) and 4 Post-Natal Clinics (1 special and 3 held in conjunction with Welfare Centre sessions).

The following are the numbers of expectant mothers and attendances made by them during the year at the Ante-Natal Clinics :—

Number of expectant mothers attending ...	5,794
Total number of attendances	18,500

One hundred and forty-eight women attended the Post-Natal Clinics during the year, 160 attendances being made.

Where treatment is required, the patient is referred to her own doctor, through the medium of the midwife, except for unsatisfactory dental conditions. Treatment of the latter can be given under the County Council scheme and the patients are offered the facilities provided.

RURAL ANTE-NATAL SCHEME.

During the year no cases were dealt with under the scheme.

MATERNITY OUTFITS.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, maternity outfits are required to be provided by Local Health Authorities for appropriate cases free of cost. The number issued during the year was 6,721 as against 7,125 for 1951, 6,709 for 1952, 7,263 for 1953 and 6,970 for 1954.

PAYMENT OF MIDWIVES' FEES.

The compensation fee of 10/- was not claimed by any independent midwives during the period covered by this Report in respect of any cases which had been booked by them and which they had lost as a result of County Council activities.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

In 1955, 40 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified in the County area.

Of the cases dealt with during the period under review, 4 were sent to hospital and 16 were cases in which confinement had taken place in hospital.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

During the year, 119 children were referred from the Infant Welfare Centres for ophthalmic examination.

Glasses were prescribed for 65 of these children who are mostly cases of squint and are kept under supervision.

These cases, with others seen in previous years, made 191 visits to the Clinics.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

During the year, 305 cases were referred for artificial light treatment.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following table shows the number of cases provided with dental care :—

		<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and nursing mothers	...	489	488	488	317
Children under five	...	936	936	936	936

The form of treatment provided is shown in the table below :—

	Extractions	General Anæsthetics	Fillings	Scalings or Scalings and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radiographs	Dentures provided	
								Com- plete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	2,195	237	234	219	—	505	19	193	123
Children under five ..	1,740	482	60	—	140	—	—	—	—

Dentures supplied were constructed in the County Dental Laboratory. X-ray units are available at Stafford, Bilston, Sedgley, Cannock and Newcastle Clinics, and the radiographs were taken at these centres. In all other areas arrangements have been made with private practitioners to undertake X-ray examinations on behalf of this Authority.

DENTAL LABORATORY.

The summary of work completed during the year at the County Dental Laboratory is shown in the following tables :—

DENTURE WORK							
<i>Nature of Denture</i>							<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Full upper dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Full lower dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Partial upper dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	302
Partial lower dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Remakes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Repairs to dentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	647

ORTHODONTICS							
<i>Appliances</i>							<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Regulation appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	497
Repairs to appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	503

SUNDRIES

	<i>Nature of</i>					<i>Nos. Completed</i>
Obturators	3
Crowns	2
Inlays	—
Splints	2
Special trays	149
Total	156

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

The County Council in their capacity as Local Health Authority are now responsible for the distribution of Welfare Foods, i.e., National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A and D Tablets.

As mentioned in last year's Report, a Special Meeting of the Health Committee made certain recommendations, as a result of which the hours of opening at some of the centres were reduced. These recommendations came into effect on the 1st January, 1955. During the year it was possible to replace the Ex Civil Defence vehicle, which was used for the distribution of Welfare Foods in the Cheadle, Leek and Newcastle Rural Districts, by a Morris Minor 8 h.p. van. The latter was first used on the 16th March.

Several of the Voluntary Centres, i.e., at shops or private houses, in the rural parts of the County ceased to exist during the year, but little difficulty was experienced in finding other volunteers to undertake the work.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

During the financial year 1955-56 the sales and free issues amounted to £20,200 as compared with £18,011 during the previous financial year. Of this figure, the amount apportionable to free issues was very small, in fact almost negligible.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The following are particulars of the live and stillbirths notified during 1955 :—

Number of live births	...	...	...	13,516
Number of stillbirths...	...	...	...	380
Notified by midwives	...	...	...	13,329
Notified by parents and doctors	...	...	...	567

The births registered during the period cannot strictly be compared with those notified because of the period allowed by law for each purpose.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Full information has been given in previous Reports of the arrangements in being with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, and the following are the particulars of the children dealt with during 1955 :—

Children with mothers at home	...	...	61
„ with parents married	...	...	4
„ with mothers in situations	...	...	2
„ with mothers in Homes	...	...	4
„ with parents co-habiting	...	...	2
Child with foster parents	...	...	6
Children in Local Authority Homes	...	...	5
„ in Voluntary Children's Homes	...	...	1
„ with adopters	...	...	65
Child transferred	...	...	1
Children died	...	...	4
„ stillborn	...	...	3
Miscarriage	...	...	1
			<hr/> 159 <hr/>

Forty-nine girls were sent to Diocesan Homes and Homes of other religious denominations during the year.

BROADFIELD HOUSE, KINGSWINFORD.

As mentioned in last year's Report, the County Council has a Mothercraft Training Hostel at Kingswinford, with accommodation for 18 cases, and full details were given of the type of case for which the Home caters.

In 1955, 52 cases were admitted, 13 still being in residence at the end of the year.

PREMATURITY.

The following table gives particulars of the number of premature infants who were born during 1955 :—

(1) *Number of Premature Live Births Notified.*

(a) In hospital	...	...	...	595
(b) At home	...	...	...	333
(c) In private nursing homes	...	...	...	9
Total			...	<hr/> 937 <hr/>

(2) *Number of Premature Stillbirths Notified.*

(a) In hospital	...	...	...	162
(b) At home	...	...	...	47
(c) In private nursing homes	...	...	...	3
Total			...	<hr/> 212 <hr/>

<i>Weight at birth</i>	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS		
	Born in hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days
3 lb. 4 oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	74	41	19	15	13	2	20	9	9	—	—	—	1	—	1
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. (1,500–2,000 gms.) ..	125	18	101	17	2	15	33	2	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. (2,000–2,250 gms.) ..	132	9	120	23	3	19	12	—	11	2	—	2	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. (2,250–2,500 gms.) ..	264	4	257	191	3	186	22	1	19	6	—	6	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	595	72	497	246	21	222	87	12	68	8	—	8	1	—	3

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATION ACT, 1948.

During 1955 no new applications for registration were received under the above-mentioned Act, so that at the end of the year premises were registered in one instance and one person remained registered as a child minder.

DAY NURSERIES.

The following table gives particulars of the Day Nurseries in operation in the Administrative County during 1955 :—

	No. of Approved Places		No. of Children on Register at end of the year		Average Daily Attendance	
	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
NEWCASTLE (Liverpool Road, Cross Heath) ..	15	25	14	26	10.17	15.98
STAFFORD (Riverside, South Walls)	25	25	12	34	13.0	17.0
TIPTON (Toll End Road)	12	38	12	23	7.0	15.0
BILSTON (Prouds Lane)	10	30	12	26	7.7	17.9
WEDNESFIELD (Lichfield Road)	20	30	8	12	4.1	8.0
WILLENHALL (Pinson Park)	25	25	25	16	25.9	18.0

As has been stated in previous Reports, the County Council also accepts financial responsibility for 20 of the places provided in a Nursery owned by Messrs. Rubery, Owen & Co. Ltd., of Darlaston. The total number of places provided in this Nursery is 42, 10 being approved for children up to two years of age, the remaining 32 being for children aged 2-5 years.

The following are the details of the average daily attendance of children at this Nursery during the year :—

0 - 2 years	...	...	...	3.8
2 - 5 years	...	...	...	12.5

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The County Council are responsible for the registration and inspection of these Homes in the Administrative County.

The following are particulars of the premises registered during the year :—

Number of premises registered at end of year ..	10
Number of applications for registration granted	—
Number of Homes given up	—
Number of Homes with more than two beds ..	5
Number of Homes solely for midwifery and maternity cases	8
Number of Homes exempted from registration...	2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Until the 1950 Report it has been possible to include a table showing the mortality rate for the Administrative County giving deaths per thousand (live and still) births over a period of years. Figures, however, are not now given by the Registrar-General to coincide with the information previously shown, and the only information relative to the above heading received shows that there were 7 deaths during the year arising from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion. Six of these occurred in hospital.

In 1954 the number of maternal deaths occurring in the Administrative County was 8.

Of the number of cases attended by midwives or maternity nurses one death only was reported in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Here again, until the Report for 1950 it was possible to include a table showing statistics over previous years relating to deaths from premature birth, congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases. The Registrar-General, however, has only defined one of the above-mentioned categories in his statistics, i.e., congenital malformations, and the number given under this heading is 77. The remaining causes mentioned above have not been classified.

During 1955, 43 deaths were reported by the midwives, having occurred whilst they were in attendance. Twelve of these were due to feebleness and prematurity.

FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Planning Association maintains four clinics in the Administrative County, at Bilston, Cannock, Leek and Stafford. At Bilston the sessions are held at the Centre Health Clinic on Tuesday afternoons weekly, at Stafford each Thursday afternoon, at North Walls Clinic, and at Cannock at Church Street on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons. The Leek Clinic was opened at Salisbury Street on the 2nd March, 1955, and is held on Wednesdays fortnightly from 7.0 p.m. to 9.0 p.m. A family planning clinic is held each Monday evening from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m. at the Infant Welfare Centre, Cross Street, in the County Borough of Burton-on-Trent.

CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

Full particulars were given in a previous Annual Report of the joint circular dated 31st July, 1950, of the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, which is concerned with the action to be taken on the discovery of neglect or ill-treatment of children in their own homes. Periodical meetings with members of all interested Authorities, Societies, etc., are held by Medical Officers to Area Health Committees, who act as local co-ordinating officers on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health, and good results continued to be obtained in many cases. During the year some 159 cases were considered and the necessary action taken wherever possible.

In a circular dated the 30th November, 1954, the Ministry of Health stressed, *inter alia*, the importance of the health of children in relation to the break-up of families. The suggestions contained in the circular were not intended to conflict in any way with the arrangements for co-ordination in the joint circular mentioned above, as much can be done within the existing framework of the Local Health Authority. In effect, doubt is removed of the responsibility of the finding and care of homes which have such a bad effect on children. The Health Committee have dealt with the problem in great detail and, as a first step, have approved the appointment of one Welfare Worker to cover an area in the south of the County, and in this respect it is hoped to appoint an experienced Home Visitor, preferably one with nursing training. As it is unlikely that any candidate will have sufficient time to deal with all aspects of the work with these difficult families, the arrangements already approved for the commencement of a Family Service Unit will proceed as soon as staff is available.

Housing difficulties play a large part in creating problem families, many of which are in arrears with their rent, are also being the subject of complaint by their neighbours and cause damage to the houses, thus leading to eviction. The Health Committee is to consider the means of overcoming this difficulty and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be possible.

The employment of domestic helps in these homes has also been considered and it has been approved that extra remuneration be paid to those who were required to work under difficult conditions in problem homes.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

At the 31st December, 1955, there were 79 whole-time general nurses, together with 76 part-time general nurses, 44 being also domiciliary midwives and 32 district nurse-midwives with part-time health visiting duties.

The principle of employment of male nurses in certain thickly-populated districts, for the nursing of patients suffering from diseases which could be more appropriately nursed by a male nurse, and heavy nursing cases, was agreed in 1950, and by the end of 1955 five male nurses were in the employ of the County Council, being centred in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Willenhall, Tipton, Wednesbury and Cannock. These are included in the figure of 79 whole-time general nurses.

As previously stated, the combined appointments are in those rural districts where the scattered population makes it impossible to separate general from midwifery work without creating districts too large to be practicable for either service.

Of the foregoing staff, 130 were car users, one had an autocycle and one used a cyclemaster, the remainder using ordinary cycles for their work.

During the year, 350,556 home visits were made by the nurses, the number of cases attended being 14,382.

The supervisory duties are undertaken by four Supervisors who are also Supervisors of Midwives and Health Visitors.

Since the 5th July, 1948, there has been a considerable increase in the number of nursing staff employed in the Home Nursing Service and whereas at that time 61 whole-time nurses and 71 who combined general with other nursing duties were employed, on the 31st December, 1955, the establishment figures were 83 and 77 respectively, and of the 83 whole-time nurses 6 were male.

The nursing of sick children is undertaken by each nurse in her own district and based on statistics for December, 1955, children in the 0–5 age group formed only 4.1% of the total patients attended.

The greatest proportion of the Home Nurse's time continues to be taken up with the care of the chronic sick and aged infirm, but helped by the nurses many of these patients who otherwise would become bedfast are encouraged to get up and, so far as possible, take part in their family life. As a result fewer patients in these categories now develop bed sores and there is less deterioration of their mental powers.

More cases of tuberculosis are now nursed at home, particularly in the early stages of the disease, but terminal cases are fewer. There is also an increase in the home nursing of diseases which respond to treatment by antibiotics, such as pneumonia and septic conditions, and more patients receive preparatory enemata from the Home Nurses prior to special investigations at hospital.

It is not possible this year to give a full analysis of the types of work which Home Nurses were called upon to do during 1955, but information has been obtained for the month of December only and is shown in the following table :—

	Age 0–5	Age 5–15	Age 15–65	Age over 65	Total
Accidental wounds	10	21	43	22	96
Burns and Scalds	16	9	18	11	54
Sepsis	8	7	55	18	88
Tuberculosis	—	5	138	13	156
Other Respiratory disease	14	5	79	56	154
Ear, nose and throat	9	14	24	9	56
Dental conditions	1	2	4	1	8
Eye conditions	5	7	11	19	42
Gynaecological conditions	—	—	67	65	132
Other genito-urinary	4	1	23	50	78
Attention to infants	8	—	—	—	8
Bones and joints	—	2	25	45	72
Rheumatic diseases	—	2	42	66	110
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	—	1	57	173	231
Veins and other circulatory	—	—	45	102	147
Heart	1	1	116	194	312
Diabetes	—	4	54	123	181
Gastro-intestinal diseases	1	3	39	26	69
Helminth infections	2	1	1	—	4
Infectious diseases	6	11	1	—	18
Mental	—	1	28	16	45
New growths	1	2	49	53	105
Post-operative	9	5	103	43	160
Senility	—	—	21	200	221
Skin	8	5	16	18	47
Other diseases	15	4	41	49	109
Injections (for anaemia)	—	—	7	12	19
Injections (for asthma)	1	—	8	2	11
Injections (for relief of pain)	—	—	20	8	28
Injections (antibiotics)	6	15	167	50	238
Enemas	10	7	106	112	235
Total	135	135	1,408	1,556	3,234

MIDWIVES' SERVICE

The following are particulars of the midwives practising at the end of 1955 :—

Number of midwives employed by the Authority	158
	(including 3
	relief midwives)
	(S.R.N., S.C.M.
	85, S.C.M. 73)

Number of midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in Nursing Homes) :

Domiciliary	11*
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In Institutions	7
------------------------	---

Number of midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees	63
--	----

*In addition, six out-of-area midwives notified, but of these only one took any cases.

The following table shows the number of cases dealt with by the midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority during the year :—

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR							
	Domiciliary Cases						Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals		
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child			
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority	102	2,036	989	3,588	6,715	12
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :— (i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act	—	—	—	—	—	3,952
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	48	9	21	78	131
	TOTALS	102	2,084	998	3,609	6,793	4,095

Of the midwives employed by the Authority, 135 were car users, three had autocycles and one used a Bond Minicar, the remainder using ordinary cycles for their work.

(These figures include the details of the transport of district nurse-midwives which are also included in those relating to the Home Nursing Service.)

As mentioned in the section of this Report relating to Home Nursing, the Supervisors' duties also include supervision of that staff and, in addition, inspection of health visitors, school nurses and general nurses. During the year, 1,411 visits and interviews were undertaken for midwifery matters.

Since the Act came into operation the names of 115 midwives have been removed from the roll in consequence of action taken by the Local Supervising Authority. In the year under review no such action was taken.

No applications were received during the year from independent midwives for compensation for loss of practice consequent upon suspension from duty, they themselves not being in default, after contact with infection.

Particulars of the notifications by midwives for the last sixteen years are given in the following table :—

Year	*No. of Births attended by Midwives	Medical Aid Notices	Still-births	Death of Mother	Death of Child	Contact with Infection	Laying out the Dead	Artificial Feeding
1940	8,714	3,822	206	8	176	157	31	253
1941	9,101	3,966	220	8	187	151	38	280
1942	9,325	3,811	214	7	161	118	28	331
1943	9,190	3,546	172	3	159	125	17	374
1944	9,136	3,482	143	8	181	108	21	484
1945	8,159	3,259	133	8	119	113	14	460
1946	8,526	3,248	164	5	151	94	22	474
1947	9,375	3,358	167	4	127	125	18	568
1948	8,071	3,375	199	5	130	87	20	728
1949	6,520	1,767	146	5	81	82	21	616
1950	6,586	1,376	172	2	89	85	16	655
1951	5,909	1,467	161	1	67	85	20	709
1952	5,252	1,375	160	4	69	86	19	728
1953	5,895	1,290	148	5	48	60	21	764
1954	5,722	1,225	146	1	50	51	17	744
1955	5,693	1,188	168	1	43	67	14	815

*Including midwifery cases in private maternity homes.

The percentage of doctors' calls to the number of births attended by midwives was 20.9.

The following figures show the causes which occasioned the sending for medical assistance :—

PREGNANCY :

Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blood Pressure Abnormal	...	...	...	...	...	7
Haemorrhage Ante-partum	...	...	...	...	...	31
Loss of Blood	...	...	...	...	...	1
? Presentation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Threatened Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	22
Unsatisfactory condition and general health...						54
Total	...	...	...	...	...	120

LABOUR :

Abnormal Presentation	...	...	...	...	...	35
Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	27
Delayed or Difficult Labour	...	...	...	...	...	107
Haemorrhage Ante-partum	...	...	...	...	...	15
Haemorrhage Intra-partum	...	...	...	...	...	4
Haemorrhage Post-partum	...	...	...	...	...	50
Inertia	...	...	...	...	...	18
Lacerated Perineum	...	...	...	...	...	338
Placenta Praevia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Labour	...	...	...	...	...	17
Prolapse of Cord	...	...	...	...	...	2
Retained Placenta and Membranes	...	...	...	...	...	29
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	...	57
Total	...	...	...	...	...	702

LYING-IN :

High Temperature	...	...	...	...	...	67
Inflamed and Painful Leg	...	...	...	...	...	18
Offensive Lochia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	...	68
Total	...	...	...	...	...	154

CHILD :

Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	11
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deformities	...	...	...	...	...	11
Feebleness and Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	28
Inflamed and Discharging Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	52
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rash	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory Condition	...	...	...	...	...	93
Watery Blisters	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	212
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	1,188

Details of the number of notifications of sending for medical help during the financial year 1955-56 are given below :—

Number of notifications of sending for medical aid	1,170
Number of claims received	101
Percentage of claims received to notifications ...	9
Total amount paid to doctors during the year ...	£293 7s. 6d.

WATERY, INFLAMED AND DISCHARGING EYES.

The number of cases notified during the year was 52. With one exception all were treated at home. Vision was unimpaired in each instance. Of the 52 cases, 49 were not severe. They include medical aid calls for all unsatisfactory eye conditions and not only notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

STILLBIRTHS.

Number of Stillbirths registered	385
Reported by midwives	168

Causes of those reported by midwives :—

Ante-partum Haemorrhage	8
Anencephalic	9
Cord Prolapse	8
Cord round Neck	4
Deformities	23
Difficult Labour	7
Hydrocephalic	4
Hydro Foetalis	1
Injury during birth	2
Knot in Cord	1
Maceration	38
Malpresentation	4
Placenta Praevia	1
Post Mature	1
Premature	20
Rhesus Negative	1
Spina Bifida	5
Unsatisfactory Condition of Mother	5
Cause not known	26

GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA

At the end of 1955, 140 midwives employed by the County Council had received approved training in the administration of gas and air analgesia, and all existing midwives at present untrained will be trained as quickly as available vacancies at recognised training schools and staffing difficulties permit.

At the 31st December, 1955, 138 midwives were equipped with the necessary apparatus ; the number of cases which were dealt with was 2,564, when nurses were acting as midwives, and 531 in their capacity as maternity nurses.

In addition, midwives administered Pethidine in a further 3,127 cases when acting as midwives and in 740 cases when acting as maternity nurses. Two midwives also used Trilene analgesia in 9 cases when acting as midwives, and in 36 cases when acting as maternity nurses.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS

Puerperal Pyrexia is defined as any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after child-birth or miscarriage.

Regulations amending the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, came into operation on the 1st March, 1955.

Cited as the Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954, a new form of certificate was prescribed for the notification of cases of puerperal pyrexia by medical practitioners and required the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated.

The total notifications from the Administrative County were 40 ; Urban Districts 39, Rural District 1.

The case-rate for Puerperal Pyrexia per thousand total births (live and still) for Staffordshire was 2.87, as compared with 17.79 for England and Wales.

The figure for Staffordshire is extraordinarily low and it is possible that there may have been incomplete notification of all cases of puerperal pyrexia, the definition of which term was revised and defined under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951.

As will have been observed from a previous table, the midwives summoned medical assistance for rises of temperature on 67 occasions. These were specially investigated and it was found that in 34 instances the unsatisfactory conditions were due to abnormalities which could be said to arise directly from childbirth.

HEALTH VISITING

At the 31st December, 1955, the number of Health Visitors was 84 whole-time and one Health Visitor Lecturer and 32 part-time Health Visitors.

The arrangements mentioned in the Annual Report for 1945 concerning the training of Health Visitors were continued, and nine nurses received such training during the year.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by this staff during 1955 to expectant mothers and young children :—

To Expectant Mothers

First visits	...	...	...	...	2,790
Total visits	...	...	...	...	6,542

To Infants under one year

First visits	...	...	...	...	13,889
Total visits	...	...	...	...	65,480
Total visits to children aged 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	38,402
Total visits to children aged 2 years but under 5 years	...	...	...	...	69,128

Three hundred and fifteen instances of insanitary conditions were reported by the Health Visitors to Local Medical Officers of Health during the period.

LECTURES ON MOTHERCRAFT.

As in previous years lectures on mothercraft continued at Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Talks were given at 397 sessions of 42 Centres in various parts of the Administrative County, the total attendance being 4,176.

The Lecturer has been provided with a film projector and film strips which have made the talks more instructive and added greatly to the interest.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

In a previous Annual Report particulars were given of the arrangements made for this service from the 5th July, 1948, as required under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

VACCINATION.

Every effort has continued to be made, through the medium of the midwife, health visitor and family practitioner during visits to the homes, Welfare Centres, etc., to encourage parents to have their babies vaccinated and the following are the particulars of the cases vaccinated or re-vaccinated during 1955. The figures for 1954 are given in brackets.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated ..	1,823 † (1,810)*	340 (295)	152 (119)	142 (113)	254 (225)	2,711 (2,562)
Number Re-Vaccinated ..	1 (2)	— (—)	9 (13)	58 (36)	403 (590)	471 (641)

† 13.5% of the Births for 1955.

* 13.4% of the Births for 1954.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Here again, every endeavour has been made during the year, through the medium of the Health Visitors, Welfare Centres, School Clinics, Teachers, etc., to ensure that the immunisation of children is carried out, and during 1955 the number immunised against diphtheria was as follows :—

Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	7,869
5 – 14 years	...	...	...	...	...	2,669

Reinforcing doses were given in 10,175 cases.

During 1954 the numbers were 8,989, 3,973 and 15,653 respectively.

The following table gives particulars of immunisation in relation to child population at the 31st December, 1955 :—

Number of children at the 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e., at any time since the 1st January, 1941).

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1 to 4 1951-1954	5 to 9 1946-1950	10 to 14 1941-1945	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951-1955 ..	803	30,233	52,196	30,577	113,809
B. 1950 or earlier ..	—	—	14,560	29,528	44,088
C. Estimated mid-year child population ..	13,120	53,180	146,300		212,600
Immunity Index 100 A/C	6.12	56.85	56.58		53.53

During 1955 there were 55 original notifications concerning suspected cases of diphtheria or of being carriers of the disease. Of these, twenty-nine were confirmed cases of diphtheria. In addition, as the result of swabbing home and school contacts and an entire Special School, twenty further carriers were discovered.

Of the 29 confirmed cases, as compared with 16 in 1954, seven were in the 0-4 age group, of which four had a record of immunisation, one was immunised within one year and three within two to three years. Twenty-two were in the 5-14 age group, and of these 11 had no record of immunisation; two were immunised within 1-2 years, two within 2-3 years, one within 3-4 years and six over five years. Nineteen of this age group were pupils at a Special School.

All the 20 carriers were in the 5-14 age group, nine having no record of immunisation. The immunisation state of the remainder was as follows :—

Immunised within 1 year	...	...	...	1
„ „ 1-2 years	...	...	...	1
„ „ 2-3 „	...	...	...	2
„ „ 3-4 „	...	...	...	2
„ „ 4-5 „	...	...	...	2
Over 5 years	...	...	...	3

With the exception of two of these carriers all were from the Special School where, as mentioned above, 19 cases were notified.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of, and mortality from, diphtheria amongst the child population of the Administrative County between 1951 and 1955 :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

INCIDENCE OF, AND MORTALITY FROM, DIPHTHERIA AMONGST THE CHILD POPULATION
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY 1951—1955

	Percentage of Total Population in Age Group					No. of Cases of Diphtheria					Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population in Age Group					No. of Deaths from Diphtheria					Case Fatality Rate per cent.				
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Children under 5 years of age :																									
Immunised ..	42.3	42.1	42.5	45.5	46.8	1	2	6	—	4	0.03	0.07	0.20	Nil	0.13	—	—	1	—	—	Nil	Nil	16.67	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	57.7	57.9	57.5	54.5	53.2	22	10	17	3	3	0.51	0.24	0.43	0.08	0.09	1	2	3	—	—	4.55	20.00	17.65	Nil	Nil
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	23	12	23	3	7	0.31	0.17	0.33	0.04	0.11	1	2	4	—	—	4.35	16.66	17.39	Nil	Nil
Children aged 5 to 14 years :																									
Immunised ..	80.1	84.2	81.8	84.7	86.7	12	7	12	6	11	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.05	0.09	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	19.9	15.8	18.2	15.3	13.3	69	13	20	2	11	2.64	0.60	0.79	0.09	0.57	5	—	2	—	2	7.25	Nil	10.00	Nil	18.18
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	81	20	32	8	22	0.62	0.15	0.23	0.06	0.15	5	—	2	—	2	6.17	Nil	6.25	Nil	9.09
All children under 15 years of age :																									
Immunised ..	66.4	69.7	68.8	72.1	74.3	13	9	18	6	15	0.09	0.06	0.13	0.04	0.09	—	—	1	—	—	Nil	Nil	5.56	Nil	Nil
Not Immunised	33.6	30.3	31.2	27.9	25.7	91	23	37	5	14	1.31	0.37	0.57	0.09	0.26	6	2	5	—	2	6.59	8.70	13.51	Nil	14.29
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	104	32	55	11	29	0.50	0.15	0.26	0.05	0.14	6	2	6	—	2	5.77	6.25	10.91	Nil	6.90

WHOOPIING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

A scheme of immunisation against whooping cough was commenced throughout the County Area in September, 1953, operated both by general practitioners and also by the County medical staff at the Infant Welfare Centres.

The scheme continued to work satisfactorily during 1955 and 2,738 children were immunised initially, and reinforcing doses given in 96 cases, by staff at Infant Welfare Centres. A further 2,067 were immunised initially, and 129 reinforcing doses were given, by general practitioners.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

STATIONS.

During the year no change occurred in the status of the Ambulance Stations which continued to operate as follows :—

<i>24-hour Stations</i>	<i>Sub-Stations</i>
Brierley Hill	Aldridge
Cannock	Biddulph
Coseley	Brownhills
Darlaston	Cheadle
Leek	Kidsgrove
Lichfield	Rowley Regis
Newcastle	Rugeley
Stafford	Stone
Uttoxeter	Tamworth
	Tettenhall
	Willenhall

A new combined Fire and Ambulance Station was opened at Cheadle by Alderman A. G. B. Owen, C.B.E., Chairman of the County Council, on the 4th October, 1955. The new Station replaces makeshift premises which had been used at Cheadle since the inception of the Service in 1948 and very much improved accommodation is now provided for the efficient running of the Service in this area and for the comfort of the personnel. During the year the building of new Stations commenced at Aldridge, Leek and Tamworth.

VEHICLES.

The repairs and maintenance of the ambulance vehicles as far as mechanical condition is concerned was dealt with as in recent years by the County Transport Department. During the year approval of the Ministry was received to the purchase of 20 Bedford/Lomas sitting case cars consisting of 2/14 seater, 8/7 seater and 10/6 seater models to replace Karrier 14 h.p. Ambulances and Fordson sitting case cars which had been in the service since 1949. The new vehicles are in service and have, so far, been found satisfactory and an improvement on the vehicles which they have replaced.

RADIO CONTROL OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year the Health Committee has given careful consideration to the likely effect Radio Control would have upon the administration of the service as at present constituted together with the economies which may result from the adoption of this method of control and has considered a likely scheme. At the end of the year the report of the Committee was left to a decision of a specially convened meeting of the County Council.

MILEAGE, PATIENTS CARRIED, VEHICLES, ETC.

The table below shows the mileage and number of patients carried by each Station during the year, together with the number of personnel and vehicles at the 31st December, 1955.

STATION	Hours Open	PERSONNEL		VEHICLES		AMBULANCES		SITTING CARS	
		Station Officers	Driver/Attendants	Amb.	S. Cars	Mileage	Patients	Mileage	Patients
Aldridge ..	16	1	7	2	1	35,900	4,857	21,786	2,338
Biddulph ..	8	1	3	2	—	30,994	5,555	—	—
Brierley Hill ..	24	1	21	4	3	81,644	10,524	57,991	7,622
Brownhills ..	16	1	11	3	1	55,904	7,522	19,866	2,364
Cannock ..	24	1	20	4	3	88,045	10,888	62,022	8,277
Coseley ..	24	1	21	3	4	97,445	15,383	37,711	10,182
Cheadle ..	16	1	11	4	1	75,893	9,782	2,887	606
Darlaston ..	24	1	21	5	2	89,493	16,472	31,427	6,412
Kidsgrove ..	8	1	3	1	1	10,835	2,501	15,324	3,634
Leek ..	24	1	18	4	3	93,856	9,025	35,938	6,999
Lichfield ..	24	1	16	3	4	67,848	5,924	41,090	4,726
Newcastle ..	24	1	21	5	2	73,644	13,029	59,045	10,769
Rowley Regis ..	12	1	5	3	—	49,824	10,689	—	—
Rugeley ..	8	1	3	1	1	22,333	1,628	24,458	1,990
Stafford ..	24	1	21	4	3	44,859	5,740	63,481	7,330
Stone ..	8	1	3	1	1	18,667	2,449	23,808	2,714
Tamworth ..	8	1	3	1	1	12,544	1,106	24,044	2,048
Tettenhall ..	8	1	1	1	1	9,375	2,034	12,779	2,374
Uttoxeter ..	24	1	16	4	2	57,060	3,759	37,273	2,766
Willenhall ..	8	1	5	2	1	24,617	6,974	15,261	4,204
Totals ..	—	20	230	57	35	1,040,780	145,841	586,191	87,355

An analysis of the types of patients carried is given below :—

Maternity	...	...	...	3,963
Illness	...	...	...	221,076
Accident	...	...	...	5,100
Infectious	...	...	...	2,379
Mental	...	...	...	678
				233,196

The following is a comparison of the number of Stations, personnel, vehicles, patients carried and mileage at the 31st December, 1955, with the number at 31st December, 1954 :—

		31.12.54	31.12.55
24-hour Stations	...	9	9
Sub-Stations	...	11	11
Ambulances	...	60	57
Sitting Cars	...	32	35
Personnel	...	249	250
Patients Carried	...	222,481	233,196
Mileage	...	1,579,794	1,626,971

AGENCY SERVICE.

The arrangements made with the Women's Voluntary Service for a Hospital Car Service in the Area administered by the Stafford Area Health Committee continued throughout the year. Efforts have been made to obtain volunteers for this service in the Rowley Regis, Cannock and Newcastle Areas ; so far three volunteers have been obtained for the Rowley Regis Area. In the Cannock and Newcastle Areas no volunteers have so far been obtained.

The following shows the number of volunteers, mileage run and patients carried by this Service in the Stafford and Rowley Regis Areas :—

<i>Month</i>				<i>No. of Cars</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Patients Carried</i>
January	...	...	...	9	712	13
February	...	...	...	8	562	13
March	...	...	...	9	2,659	54
April...	...	...	...	9	1,569	46
May ...	...	...	...	9	1,953	29
June	...	...	...	9	2,806	30
July ...	...	...	...	9	1,941	32
August	...	...	...	8	1,502	26
September	...	...	...	8	1,209	16
October	...	...	...	8	889	20
November	...	...	...	8	1,045	19
December	...	...	...	7	1,064	22
					17,911	320

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.

No change occurred in the accepted charge of 2/- per mile for ambulance vehicles and 9d. for sitting cars between County Authorities, also the standard charge of 2/9d. per mile for ambulances and 1/3d. for sitting cars in respect of County Borough Councils, any variation in these rates being specially approved by the Committee.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The following are particulars of the work undertaken during 1955 by the four Welfare Officers :—

				<i>Free</i>	<i>Partial payment by patient</i>	<i>Paid in full by patient</i>	<i>Total</i>
(1)	Number of patients supplied with extra nourishment†	...	...	777	7	—	784
(2)	Number of patients supplied with clothing†	...	...	490	13	—	503
(3)	Number of patients supplied with bedding†	...	...	368	9	—	377
(4)	Number of patients supplied with convalescent home treatment	...	...	58	119	13	190

	<i>Free</i>	<i>Partial payment by patient</i>	<i>Paid in full by patient</i>	<i>Total</i>
(5) Number of patients supplied with appliances*	299	6	—	305
(6) Number of visits and interviews with patients	—	—	—	4,527
(7) Number of patients seen at Office or Clinic	—	—	—	2,302
(8) Housing				
(a) No. of cases recommended	—	—	—	215
(b) No. of cases re-housed ...	—	—	—	80
(9) No. of shelters supplied to T.B. patients	—	—	—	3

* Includes invalid chairs, air beds, rubber rings, hot water bottles, articles for occupational therapy, bed rests, etc. The majority of such appliances were provided on loan.

† Includes cases where assistance was given through Welfare Officers by bodies other than the Staffordshire County Council, e.g., British Red Cross Society and other voluntary associations, National Assistance Board.

The provisions of this Section of the Act empower the Local Health Authority to recover reasonable charges from persons availing themselves of the services provided, subject to consideration of their means. The foregoing table indicates to what extent there was recovery or partial recovery of charges during the year.

In addition to the foregoing, the Welfare Officers are concerned with the provision of travelling warrants to relatives to enable them to visit patients in hospital in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 85/49, particulars of which were given in the Annual Report for that year. During the year 36 applications for the facility were received. In 28 instances full travelling expenses were allowed and four were granted partial assistance. In the remaining four instances it was found the financial circumstances were such that the cases could not be considered to be necessitous ones, so that the County Council could not pay the travelling expenses involved.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

In the Report for 1953 particulars were given of the scheme inaugurated by the Health Committee for the visitation of old people and here again the Welfare Officers visit the old people and advise and assist wherever necessary. As mentioned previously, the latter have been classified in five categories as follows :—

- (1) Appropriately provided for as regards accommodation, money and domestic assistance or care from relatives ; needing no, or only very slight, help from public sources ; not lacking such social contacts as are appropriate ; adequately nursed and treated at home if infirm, i.e., those about whom no anxiety need be felt.

- (2) In reasonable health and not without material necessities (e.g., food, shelter, clothing, ability to pay for household help), but lonely and lacking social contacts and relatives or friends able and willing to take an interest in them ; i.e., those whose main need is sympathetic visiting and observation, old people's clubs, holidays and other outside interests.
- (3) Needing substantial assistance from public and/or voluntary services (e.g., domestic helps, home nursing, social workers, someone to shop and collect pensions, etc.), but who with such assistance could be adequately cared for at home.
- (4) " Chronic sick " or seriously demented requiring more nursing care, supervision and treatment than could be provided in their homes and whose real need is a hospital bed, though the domiciliary services may be required while a bed is awaited.
- (5) Those (whether sick or not) living in grossly insanitary conditions such as to require initial action by the District Medical Officer of Health to secure cleansing or removal.

Cases are brought to the notice of the Welfare Officers in various ways, i.e., Health Visitors, General Nurses, General Practitioners, Medical Officers of Health, Housing Welfare Officers, National Assistance Board, etc.

During the period under review some 631 homes were visited—169 to cases falling in Category 1, 77 in Category 2, 344 in Category 3, 34 in Category 4 and 7 in Category 5.

Six hundred and ninety-three visits to these homes were paid—356 of these were of a social nature, 178 to cases referred to County Council agencies, i.e., for domestic assistance, extra nourishment, nursing equipment, to the County Welfare Officer, etc., and 159 to outside bodies—National Assistance Board, Voluntary Associations, Red Cross, W.V.S., etc.

NURSING COMFORTS

The arrangements entered into with the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade with regard to the Nursing Comforts Scheme, as described in the Annual Report for 1952, continued to work satisfactorily. At the end of 1955, 69 Nursing Comforts Depots were in operation as compared with 67 at the beginning of the year.

ADMISSION OF CHRONIC SICK TO HOSPITAL

In a previous Report particulars were given of the scheme in operation in the area of the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee whereby, in an endeavour to achieve the best means of using the beds available for the treatment of the chronic sick, the General Practitioners wishing to remove to hospital a chronic sick case resident in the County Area first applies to the Area Medical Officers so that the latter might overcome, if possible, the home difficulties by arranging the requisite facilities to enable the patient to remain at home or otherwise to refer the case to the Secretary of the Hospital Management Committee, confirming that such efforts had been unsuccessful and indicating the degree of urgency in each case.

During the year the Lichfield, Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth Group of Hospitals, who had decided to establish the same procedure, asked for the County Council's participation on similar lines and this was approved by the Health Committee.

In both areas the scheme has proved most successful.

During the year the number of cases referred to Area Medical Officers was 427.

Of the total number referred, 187 were admitted to chronic sick hospital accommodation, four to Mental Hospitals, five to Part III Accommodation and four to General Hospitals. In 116 of these cases one or more of the County Council's Services were of help to the patients pending admission.

In 227 cases, therefore, the patients were cared for at home, the County Council's Services being of assistance in 72 instances, viz. :—

Nursing	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Domestic Help	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nursing and Domestic Help...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Nursing and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Domestic Help and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nursing, Domestic Help and Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

There was unfortunately some curtailment of this scheme during 1955 as one of the Occupational Therapists resigned and left the service of the County Council on obtaining an appointment elsewhere at the end of August and for domestic reasons it was necessary for the other member of this staff to cease employment on the 1st November. Until these dates, however, the scheme proved very satisfactory, and during the time the Occupational Therapists were engaged, 1,538 visits were paid to patients in their homes, the number of patients on the registers of each member of the staff being 317 and 238 respectively (i.e., at the end of October and August).

The numbers of cases who attended the classes at Wolverhampton and Wednesbury during the same period were 123 at Wolverhampton and 116 at Wednesbury.

In addition, classes in handicrafts continued to be held at Broadfield House Mothercraft Training Hostel, Kingswinford, and were conducted by the second Occupational Therapist on one afternoon weekly.

The average number of girls attending the classes was 10.

The Occupational Therapist who ceased duty for domestic reasons has now recommenced work, but unfortunately it has not been possible as yet to replace the second member of this staff.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Full particulars of the above-mentioned Service have been given in a previous Report.

The Service continued to expand further during the year and at the 31st December, 497 Domestic Helps were employed compared with 456 at the end of the previous year.

During the year 2,344 cases were attended compared with 2,008 in 1954.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(1) ADMINISTRATION.

A Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee is appointed to deal with the functions of the County Council relating to the Mental Health Service, the recommendations of this Sub-Committee being subject to the approval of the Health Committee.

The medical direction of the Mental Health Section is undertaken by the County Psychiatrist subject to the general direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. The post is filled at present by a Medical Officer with the following qualifications : M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M. He is employed part-time by the Health Committee, the remainder of his time being spent in duties undertaken for the School Health Service.

A Mental Welfare Officer is employed, her qualifications being a B.A. degree with a Secondary Teachers' Diploma. She is authorised to present petitions under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and makes the necessary arrangements for the majority of the certifications under this Act.

No Psychiatric Social Workers are employed.

The four Mental Welfare Workers are qualified as under :—

- (i) Social Science Diploma.
- (ii) Social Science Diploma.
- (iii) R.M.P.A. Certificate, with five years' experience in industrial social work prior to appointment in 1948.
- (iv) Uncertificated teacher with 19 years' experience in mental health social work.

Seven Duly Authorised Officers are employed in a full-time capacity. In addition, one of the Mental Welfare Workers undertakes relief duties at weekends and during annual leave periods of one of the regular officers.

The Special Training Centre staffs are as follows :—

Supervisors. Two with the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, two who hold the Recognition Certificate issued by the National Joint Council for Mental Health and three with no qualifications.

Assistant Supervisors. One with the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, one uncertificated teacher and seventeen who are unqualified, including one who attended the course organised by the National Association for Mental Health for their Diploma during 1954-55. Although successful, the Diploma was not awarded as the assistant supervisor concerned was under 21 years of age, but the award will be made on the assistant's 21st birthday. There was one vacant post of assistant supervisor at the end of the year.

In addition, three trainee assistant supervisors are at present under training.

The staff of the Practical Training Centre at which training for adult mental defectives was commenced on the 5th December, 1955, is as shown below :—

Supervisor—Male, Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health.

Deputy Supervisor—Male, unqualified.

Woodwork Instructor—Male, cabinet-maker.

Boot and Shoe Repairer Instructor—Male, craftsman.

General Handicrafts Instructor—Female, unqualified.

An unqualified Home Teacher is employed in the sparsely populated districts in the north of the County where it is not feasible to provide Special Training Centres.

The number of certified mental defectives from the Administrative County at the 1st January, 1956, was as follows :—

St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	464
Stallington Hall	105
Other Institutions (including State Institutions)	206
Total	<hr/> 775 <hr/>

Supervision of mentally defective patients on licence was carried out on behalf of Hospital Management Committees of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board as requested by Medical Superintendents. During the year 82 patients were thus supervised, 49 from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr Park, 6 from Stallington Hall, one from Burton Road Hospital, one from Andressey Hospital, 8 from Monyhull Hall, two from Chelmsley Hospital and 15 from out-county authorities. Seven patients on licence were discharged from their orders during the year and six were returned to hospital. Approximately 236 reports on the home conditions of defectives who were seen by Visiting Justices for renewal of their Order were submitted after investigation of the circumstances in each case. On 31.12.55 there were 61 defectives on licence under supervision from Staffordshire Hospitals and 7 on licence from other counties.

It has been arranged with the Medical Superintendents of two of the Mental Hospitals in the County (St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood, and St. George's Hospital, Stafford) for those Officers of the County who undertake the after-care of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals to attend at those hospitals on the case conferences on the patients for whom they will be responsible on discharge. This is of great advantage not only to the patient, for whom it ensures continuity of treatment and care, but also to the Officers concerned, as it enables them to be briefed in the specific problems regarding each patient.

No duties have been delegated to Voluntary Associations although the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare is responsible for the financial aspects of the annual holiday provided for the defectives attending Special Training Centres towards the cost of which the County Council makes a grant. This Association has Sub-Committees attached to six of the Centres which raise funds locally towards the cost of such holidays and other social amenities.

Whenever possible one member of the County Special Training Centre staffs is seconded each year to attend the course for the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, but there was no suitable candidate for the 1955-56 course. The trainee scheme mentioned in the 1952 report has been in operation since 1953. One of the trainees was appointed to the post of Assistant Supervisor during the year, and the vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of the trainee who previously had worked in a voluntary capacity.

The usual four-day residential refresher course for Special Training Centre staffs was held in April this year at Walton Hall Special School and 28 members of the County staff attended, together with 9 students from outside the Administrative County. Two members of the Centres' staffs attended the residential refresher course organised by the National Association for Mental Health in July.

Although authorisation has been given for the attendance of Mental Welfare Workers and Duly Authorised Officers on Refresher Courses it has for some time been impossible to arrange for this due to there being no suitable courses available.

(2) ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

- (a) *Under Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946.*
Prevention, Care and After-Care.

During the year 577 new cases were referred for preventive care and after-care to the Social Workers in Mental Health. In all, 1,656 visits of after-care were made by these Duly Authorised Officers and at the end of the year 239 cases remained on the registers. An increase is again shown in the number of new cases referred.

It is appreciated that considerable scope exists for increased attention to the preventative aspects of mental health.

- (b) *Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, by Duly Authorised Officers.*

One thousand, six hundred and forty-five cases were referred to the Duly Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. They were dealt with as follows :—

Voluntary cases under Section 1 of the Mental Treatment Act	...	...	...	...	492
Temporary cases under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act	...	...	...	...	2
Three-day Orders under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act	...	...	...	...	308

Summary Reception Orders, Secs. 14-16 of the Lunacy Act	...	...	...	...	262
Fourteen-day Orders Section 21(1) of the Lunacy Act	...	...	...	...	161
Referred to Neurosis Centres	...	...	...	...	13
Admitted to chronic sick hospitals	...	...	...	...	4
Referred to Welfare Services Committee	...	...	...	...	9
Other disposals	...	...	...	...	17
Cases seen in which no action was taken	...	...	...	...	377
					<hr/> 1,645 <hr/>

Again it is noted that the proportion of cases dealt with on Summary Reception Orders remains low and an increase is shown in the percentage admitted as voluntary patients. The figure shown under Section 1 of the Mental Treatment Act refers only to cases in which the Duly Authorised Officers were concerned and not to the total admissions under this Section.

(c) *Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38. Ascertainment.*
Particulars of cases reported during the year 1955 :—

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
(a) Cases at 31st December, 1955, ascertained to be defectives subject to be dealt with under the Act.					
(i) Reported by Local Education Authorities :					
Children at school or liable to attend school	31	27	—	—	58
On leaving special schools ..	2	3	9	15	29
On leaving ordinary schools ..	2	5	1	1	9
(ii) Reported by Police or Courts	—	—	1	1	2
(iii) Other Sources	—	1	1	4	6
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	4	2	9	5	20
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b) ..	1	1	1	2	5
Total number of cases reported during the year	40	39	22	28	129

The number of cases in the community awaiting removal to institutions on 31.12.55 was :—

<i>Under 16</i>		<i>16 and over</i>		<i>Total</i>
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
34	22	34	31	121

Guardianship.

On the 31st December, 1955, there were four defectives under statutory guardianship—all four were males. All attend Special Training Centres and are regularly visited. In addition supervision is carried out on behalf of other Local Health Authorities in respect of two of their cases under guardianship at present residing in Staffordshire. Grants from the National Assistance Board have relieved the financial stringency, which formerly necessitated a number of guardianship orders to secure adequate maintenance for the defectives at home.

Supervision.

On the 31st December, 1955, the following mental defectives were under supervision :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Statutory Supervision :			
(i) Under 16 years of age ...	191	177	368
(ii) Aged 16 years and over ...	347	288	635
Voluntary Supervision :			
(i) Under 16 years of age ...	4	4	8
(ii) Aged 16 years and over ...	260	246	506
	<hr/> 802	<hr/> 715	<hr/> 1,517

Out of a total of 1,517 cases, 33.3% are under voluntary supervision.

Six thousand, three hundred and seven domiciliary visits and interviews by the four Mental Welfare Workers took place during the year. In addition, 10 visits were paid to the homes of educationally sub-normal children at the request of the County Education Authority.

Eleven defectives appeared before Courts of Law during the year ; of these seven were admitted to institutions, four under Section 8 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. Petitions for orders under the Mental Deficiency Acts were presented in the case of 28 alleged defectives in the County and ten on behalf of other Authorities.

Five defectives were admitted to institutions under Section 3 of the Mental Deficiency Act as “ placed ” cases without an order, and one was sent to a Voluntary Home, making a total of 38 vacancies offered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board for County cases in the year.

At the close of the year there were 121 defectives awaiting beds in institutions and, in addition, 10 who had been admitted to Mental Hospitals pending transfer to Mental Deficiency Institutions.

Again this year the pressure on beds in Mental Deficiency Hospitals provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has been so acute that some of the most urgent cases cannot be placed. The distress this causes to the defective concerned and to the relatives is very great.

For the majority of defectives regular domiciliary visiting by Social Workers experienced in mental health work who can advise wisely when difficulties arise meets their need, linked as this is in the County with facilities for admission to the Day Special Training Centres in suitable cases. The opening of a Practical Training Centre for trainees over the age of 16 years at Shepwell Green in December, 1955, was an important development of the County Council's Scheme for community care.

Training to which they can respond and a "school life" of their own brings happiness and inspiration into the lives of many of these young people, and makes it possible for them in spite of their handicaps to continue to live at home.

For those able to work ready co-operation over their placement has been given to the Mental Welfare Workers by the Officers of the Ministry of Labour, and by the National Assistance Board with those who are unemployable.

Under the provisions of the Ministry of Health's Circular 5/52 most valuable help has again been afforded to individual defectives under supervision during the year. Eighteen defectives under 16 years and 12 over 16 years old were admitted under these provisions for temporary residential care to Mental Deficiency Hospitals for varying periods up to eight weeks. This has given much needed relief to responsible relatives when difficulties have arisen in their homes.

Training.

The number of Special Training Centres in the County Area is unchanged (7) and the Home Teacher continues to operate over a wide area around Leek in North Staffordshire. The particulars are as follows :—

		<i>No. on Register</i>	
<i>Centre</i>		31.12.55	<i>Staff at 31.12.55</i>
Stafford ...	...	16	Supervisor and one assistant
Cannock ...	...	24*	Supervisor and one assistant
Bilston ...	...	53	Supervisor, four assistants and one trainee
Kingswinford ...	...	42	Supervisor and four assistants
Tipton ...	...	28	Supervisor and one assistant (vacancy for one assistant)
Newcastle ...	...	62†	Supervisor, five assistants and one trainee
Lichfield ...	...	54‡	Supervisor, three assistants and one trainee
		<hr/> 279 <hr/>	
Home Teacher centred on Leek	...	25	

* Includes one boy maintained by Burton-on-Trent.

† Includes eight children from City of Stoke-on-Trent.

‡ Includes one boy from Warwickshire.

In addition, the County Council have arranged with Wolverhampton County Borough Council, with Burton-on-Trent County Borough Council and with Stoke-on-Trent City Council for cases living near to those Authorities' Occupation Centres who cannot reach a County Centre from where they live to be admitted to the Out-County Centre. At the end of the year two cases were maintained in Wolverhampton Centre, two in Burton-on-Trent and one in Fenton Centre.

There has been no change in the buildings from which the Centres operate during 1955. The accommodation for Tipton and Stafford Centres continues to give anxiety, but work has commenced on the building of a new Centre in Rowley Regis which will replace the one at Tipton, and it is anticipated that the Centre will be in operation in September, 1956. Approval has been obtained for a new Centre to be erected in Stafford and the site chosen, but the final plans have not yet been drawn up.

As previously stated, the general policy of separate provision for adult defectives has been accepted in so far as this is practicable, but at present numbers are sufficient only to warrant the establishment of an Adult Centre to serve the south of the County. The adaptations were completed at the former Day Nursery at Shepwell Green, Willenhall, in time for the premises to be opened for use as a Practical Training Centre for adult mental defectives on the 5th December, 1955. The Centre is designed to accommodate sixty trainees, but in the first instance admissions were limited to those defectives over the age of 16 years who were attending the Bilston, Tipton and Kingswinford Special Training Centres. The number on the register at 31.12.55 was 33 and the staff were as shown earlier.

In order to provide suitable training for the adult defectives living in the north of the County, the Stoke-on-Trent City Council were approached with a view to places being offered at their Adult Training Centre in Hanley. Reciprocal arrangements were made in 1954 whereby children from the City are admitted to Newcastle Special Training Centre and older defectives from the Administrative County are admitted to the City Adult Training Centre. During the year the City Council agreed to our request that a further five places should be placed at the disposal of the County Council and at the end of the year the full agreed number of County cases, 25, were attending.

Summer holidays of one week's duration were arranged for 159 pupils attending Special Training Centres. There were altogether nine parties and the arrangements were made by the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare. The cost of the holidays was met from contributions by the parents, donations from the Centre Committees of the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare and from the Health Committee.

The day-to-day administration of the Centres and appointment of their staffs is the responsibility of the Health Committee of the Area in which the Centre is situated. The majority of the Area Health Committees have appointed a representative to serve on the local Centre Committee of the Voluntary Association. The Parents' Associations at Newcastle and Bilston Centres continue to do good work. All Centres have been inspected by the Board of Control.

The Home Teacher has continued to give weekly or fortnightly lessons to the 25 defectives on her register during the school terms, travelling by car 6,050 miles during the year. Seven hundred and eighty-seven visits were made by the Home Teacher during the year.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

The following are particulars of the known cases of epilepsy and cerebral palsy from the Administrative County at the 31st December, 1955 :—

EPILEPSY.

Adults.

No. in Part III Accommodation	...	13
No. in own homes	... ..	50
No. chargeable to the Authority in colonies outside the County	...	28
		—

91

Children between the ages of 2 and 16 years.

Epileptics.

At Special Schools	... ..	5 (3 boys 2 girls)
Awaiting admission to Special Schools		2 (boys)
At ordinary schools	... ..	152 (67 boys 85 girls)
Home Tuition	... ..	2 (1 boy 1 girl)
		—
		161 (73 boys 88 girls)

Epilepsy with other major defects.

At Special Schools	... ..	20 (13 boys 7 girls)
At ordinary schools	... ..	16 (12 boys 4 girls)
On Home Tuition		
(a) Physically Handicapped	...	1 (girl)
(b) E.S.N.	... ..	2 (1 boy 1 girl)
Spastic (pre-school)	... ..	1 (boy)
Physically Handicapped (pre-school)	...	1 (boy)
		—

42 (28 boys
14 girls) 203

Children under 2 years of age.

No. treated in hospital	... ..	5
No. treated by general practitioners	...	3
		—

8 (2 boys
6 girls) 8

Mental defectives under statutory and voluntary supervision with the additional handicap of epilepsy.

No. under 16 years	...	...	...	42	(21 male 21 female)	
No. 16 years and over	...	...	...	55	(27 male 28 female)	
				97	(48 male 49 female)	97
						399

CEREBRAL PALSY.

Adults.

No. in own homes	...	...	...	31		
No. in Voluntary Home but chargeable to the Authority	...	...	...	1		
						32

Children 2—16.

At Residential Special Schools for Cerebral Palsy	...	...	...	18	(9 boys 9 girls)	
At Day Special Schools for Cerebral Palsy	...	...	...	3	(1 boy 2 girls)	
At Special Schools for other causes	...			6	(3 boys 3 girls)	
Awaiting admission to Special Schools on account of Cerebral Palsy	...			23	(14 boys 9 girls)	
Awaiting admission to Special Schools on account of other causes	...			21	(10 boys 11 girls)	
Attending ordinary schools	...	...		56	(33 boys 23 girls)	
Attending private schools	...	...		1	(boy)	
*Having tuition at home	...	...		9	(4 boys 5 girls)	
				137	(75 boys 62 girls)	137

* In addition to these 9 children on permanent home tuition there are a further 17 children on the waiting list for admission to Special Schools who are having home tuition as an interim measure.

Children under 2.

No. treated in hospital	...	...	...	3		
No. treated by general practitioners	...			2		
				5	(boys)	5

Mental defectives under statutory and voluntary supervision with the additional handicap of cerebral palsy.

No. under 16 years	...	...	...	57	(27 male 30 female)	
No. 16 years and over	...	...	...	59	(32 male 27 female)	
				116	(59 male 57 female)	116
						290

Of the 97 persons suffering from epilepsy in addition to mental defect, 25 attend Special Training Centres and one has Home Teaching.

Of the 116 defectives suffering from spastic conditions, 28 attend Special Training Centres and two have Home Teaching. Twenty-three persons in these two totals suffer from both epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

With regard to adults, the figures given relate to those registered by the County Welfare Department under the scheme relating to permanently handicapped made under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and those chargeable in Part III Accommodation.

As mentioned in a previous Report, the fullest co-operation is maintained between the Welfare Services Department, the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Youth Employment Officers of the Education Committee, Voluntary Organisations, etc.

Each application for registration under the Authority's scheme is considered from the widest aspects of welfare, and where spectacles, artificial limbs, wheeled chairs, etc., are found to be needed application is made to the appropriate Department or body for what is required. Where further particulars are needed as to the extent of disability of any handicapped person these are obtained, with the person's consent, from the General Practitioner through this Department and intimation is given to the County Welfare Officer where there is any doubt as to suitability of any particular applicant for inclusion in the Register of Handicapped Persons.

With regard to spastics, the Midland Spastic Association, whose area includes Staffordshire, provides home tuition in handicrafts, visits, advice, etc. A contribution is made by the Authority to the Association in accordance with the decision of the Authority to utilise, as far as is considered practicable or desirable, the services available from Voluntary Organisations for all classes of handicapped.

With regard to the children between the ages of 2 and 16 years, such cases are ascertained from Health Visitors, routine medical inspections, Head Teachers, School Welfare Officers, parents, hospitals, etc. No medical treatment is undertaken by the School Health Service and it is usually ascertained when a case is brought to notice that it is already in the care of a General Practitioner and/or Consultant. Admission to Special Schools is arranged when required by the Education Committee.

School Medical Officers have supplies of enrolment forms for the register maintained by the Welfare Services Department for distribution when children are examined in the "leaver group."

T A B L E S

Table showing Population, Number of Persons per acre, Birth and Death-rates at all ages and among Children under 1 year, and the Death-rates from Zymotic Diseases, Tuberculosis, Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, &c.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Population at all ages		Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth-rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Per 1,000 of Population							Zymotic Mortality							
	Census 1951 (Final)	Estimated 1955									Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasm	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Congenital Malformations	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria				
Aldridge	29,171	33,100	3.6	15.6	14.7	0.51	7.4	10.4	21	31	—	—	0.18	0.06	1.27	0.21	0.30	0.03	0.06	0.24	—	—	—	
Amblecote	...	3,165	3,020	4.5	11.6	10.9	—	11.6	10.3	57	57	—	—	—	—	3.31	0.33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biddulph	...	10,896	12,640	1.9	18.1	18.3	0.71	9.0	11.1	38	59	—	—	0.16	—	1.58	0.63	0.55	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bilston	33,458	33,830	18.1	17.0	15.1	0.62	10.7	14.2	16	28	—	—	0.30	—	1.63	0.77	0.77	0.06	0.12	0.06	—	—	—	—
Brierley Hill	...	48,966	49,740	8.5	13.4	12.9	0.36	10.5	12.2	15	26	0.02	—	0.16	—	1.71	1.11	0.28	0.14	0.10	0.14	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	...	21,489	21,590	3.4	15.3	14.5	0.56	9.9	12.3	12	15	—	—	0.14	—	1.39	0.56	0.32	0.19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannock	40,917	41,730	5.1	14.7	14.1	0.46	10.3	12.1	21	31	—	—	0.05	—	1.63	0.81	0.17	0.19	0.14	0.14	—	—	—	—
Coseley	34,397	33,000	10.4	15.5	14.3	0.64	8.1	11.3	14	20	0.03	—	0.09	—	1.21	0.79	0.24	0.09	0.03	0.06	—	—	—	—
Darlaston	...	22,012	22,070	14.4	14.2	12.9	0.68	11.2	15.0	13	22	—	—	0.18	—	2.27	1.04	0.36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidsgrove	...	16,229	17,790	4.3	18.8	17.1	0.39	9.7	12.0	27	42	—	—	0.06	—	1.91	0.45	0.22	—	—	0.06	0.17	—	—	—
Leek	19,356	19,020	4.4	13.5	14.0	0.21	13.2	12.4	19	19	—	—	—	—	2.73	0.53	0.26	0.21	0.11	0.11	—	—	—	—
Lichfield	...	10,619	10,980	3.1	17.2	16.5	0.36	12.0	11.2	16	42	—	—	—	0.09	1.82	1.00	0.27	0.09	0.18	0.46	—	—	—	—
Newcastle	...	70,036	72,220	8.1	16.4	16.2	0.55	9.9	11.6	19	27	—	—	0.07	0.01	1.69	0.54	0.37	0.22	0.10	0.18	—	—	—	—

Deaths occurring during the year 1955 classified according to Diseases and Localities,
together with Births occurring during the year.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths from all causes	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 4 weeks	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Syphilitic Disease	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Malignant Neoplasm					Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	Diabetes	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	Coronary Disease, Angina	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Other Heart Disease	Other Circulatory Disease	Influenza	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Other Diseases of Respiratory System and Duodenum	Ulcer of Stomach and Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Congenital Malformations	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	All other Accidents	Suicide	Homicide and Operations of War	
															Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms																						
Aldridge	518	17	245	16	11	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	5	—	24	—	26	27	10	60	6	3	10	7	1	—	1	2	1	—	8	20	5	7	1	—
Amblecote	35	—	35	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	6	—	1	3	1	4	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5	—	2	—	—		
Biddulph	236	9	114	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	1	—	10	—	1	11	1	16	3	—	7	8	1	—	1	—	3	16	1	3	4	—		
Bilston	575	21	362	16	9	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	10	10	5	3	27	2	1	38	5	53	10	6	26	26	2	7	3	4	2	—	2	44	6	3	5	1
Brierley Hill	666	18	523	17	10	8	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	14	16	5	1	49	2	4	38	10	58	23	10	14	55	7	16	2	5	3	—	7	70	5	9	7	1
Brownhills	331	12	213	5	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	1	4	12	—	—	25	6	59	2	4	7	12	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	11	5	6	1	1	
Cannock	614	19	431	19	13	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	11	9	1	34	2	4	65	47	7	86	14	1	7	34	8	4	3	6	2	6	33	5	20	5	—	
Coseley	510	21	267	10	7	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	8	8	3	1	20	1	2	28	32	5	44	8	—	8	26	3	3	2	1	1	—	2	41	6	4	4	1
Darlaston	313	15	248	7	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	4	—	31	—	5	27	22	13	42	5	2	8	23	—	2	—	—	—	—	29	2	7	5	—	
Kidsgrove	335	7	172	14	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	3	1	17	—	2	29	23	2	15	9	—	4	8	—	1	—	1	—	3	20	6	6	8	—	
Leek	257	4	251	5	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	14	7	5	1	25	3	1	32	33	1	45	7	2	5	10	4	5	1	2	1	—	2	29	1	10	2	1
Lichfield	189	4	132	8	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	1	10	1	—	17	13	2	16	11	2	3	11	1	2	1	2	1	—	5	21	1	—	—	—
Newcastle	1187	40	714	32	22	5	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	20	24	8	6	64	5	4	92	103	20	117	25	4	27	39	16	5	4	7	4	—	13	63	7	17	9	1

DISTRICT	Population at all ages		Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth-rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality			Per 1,000 of Population								
	Census 1951 (Final)	Estimated 1955									Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasm	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Congenital Malformations	
Rowley Regis ...	49,402	49,120	13.0	12.2	11.6	0.29	9.9	12.7	22	28	—	—	—	0.06	—	1.93	0.77	0.51	0.16	0.10	0.08	
Rugeley ...	8,525	11,120	3.9	23.5	23.3	0.81	8.5	9.4	8	31	0.09	—	—	—	—	0.09	1.44	0.18	0.09	—	0.27	0.36
Sedgley ...	23,114	23,740	6.2	12.3	11.7	0.46	30.6	29.7	31	44	—	—	—	0.13	—	3.50	1.81	0.55	0.21	0.21	0.25	
Stafford ...	40,263	41,220	8.1	15.2	14.9	0.41	12.7	13.7	22	32	—	—	—	0.07	—	1.80	0.49	0.36	0.07	0.12	0.15	
Stone ...	8,299	8,710	5.3	14.2	13.8	0.23	17.8	17.3	32	40	—	—	—	—	—	2.41	0.57	0.46	0.11	0.11	—	
Tamworth ...	12,889	13,360	4.9	14.4	14.1	0.30	13.2	12.3	10	16	—	—	—	—	—	1.57	0.75	1.05	0.30	—	—	
Tettenhall ...	7,743	10,780	4.3	15.2	14.4	0.19	12.1	11.9	24	24	0.19	—	—	0.09	—	2.13	0.46	0.56	—	0.28	0.19	
Tipton ...	39,382	39,440	18.2	16.5	14.7	0.56	8.4	11.5	23	32	—	—	0.03	0.18	0.03	1.57	0.84	0.23	0.08	0.05	0.05	
Uttoxeter ...	7,447	7,580	2.2	12.7	12.8	0.26	12.8	13.1	10	31	—	—	—	—	—	1.58	1.58	0.26	0.40	—	—	
Wednesbury ...	34,759	34,730	17.2	15.5	14.3	0.37	9.8	12.4	11	15	—	—	—	0.09	—	1.50	0.78	0.32	0.14	0.17	0.09	
Wednesfield ...	17,418	22,170	8.8	19.0	18.1	0.68	7.7	10.7	21	36	—	—	—	0.05	—	1.76	0.45	0.32	—	0.09	0.05	
Willenhall ...	30,696	31,100	11.0	15.5	14.6	0.26	9.9	13.3	27	37	—	—	—	0.03	—	1.80	0.58	0.42	0.19	0.13	0.16	
Totals and Averages ...	640,648	663,800	6.7	15.4	14.6	0.46	10.9	13.0	20	29	0.01	—	0.00	0.10	0.01	1.78	0.73	0.37	0.13	0.10	0.13	
160 large towns in England ...	—	—	—	14.9	—	0.35	11.6	—	—	25	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.53	—	—	—	
160 smaller towns, resident Population 25,000–50,000 ...	—	—	—	14.9	—	0.36	11.6	—	—	25	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.45	—	—	—	

URBAN—continued

DISTRICT	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths from all causes	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 4 weeks	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Syphilitic Disease	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Malignant Neoplasm					Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	Diabetes	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	Coronary Disease, Angina	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Other Heart Disease	Other Circulatory Disease	Influenza	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Congenital Malformations	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	All other Accidents	Suicide	Homicide and Operations of War	
															Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms																							
Rowley Regis...	601	14	484	17	13	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	23	8	3	41	2	3	68	48	21	89	9	7	25	38	8	6	2	5	1	—	4	33	7	6	2	—
Rugeley ...	261	9	95	8	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	2	—	10	—	15	14	2	10	2	—	1	5	3	2	1	3	3	—	4	6	2	2	2	—	
Sedgley ...	293	11	726	13	9	3	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	6	19	16	3	39	2	8	89	29	10	151	36	9	13	43	5	2	1	5	2	—	6	193	2	25	4	—
Stafford ...	627	17	522	20	14	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	20	9	3	33	1	2	69	67	9	140	17	2	15	20	3	5	2	5	7	1	6	40	5	15	6	1
Stone ...	124	2	155	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	2	10	1	—	28	5	3	38	3	1	4	5	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	32	1	3	2	—
Tamworth ...	192	4	176	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	5	—	9	1	4	32	19	5	23	15	2	14	10	4	2	—	3	—	—	19	—	—	1	—	
Tettenhall ...	164	2	130	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	3	3	1	13	—	25	12	4	16	3	—	—	6	5	—	3	—	3	1	—	2	16	1	3	4	—
Tipton ...	650	22	332	21	15	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	10	14	4	1	33	1	2	45	34	7	57	9	3	9	33	3	2	1	2	1	2	27	5	12	4	—	
Uttoxeter ...	96	2	97	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	6	1	8	12	1	24	4	1	2	12	3	1	5	—	1	—	—	5	1	2	2	—	
Wednesbury ...	540	13	340	8	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	13	4	—	25	2	4	49	34	8	66	13	2	11	27	5	4	1	6	4	1	3	24	6	9	6	—
Wednesfield ...	421	15	170	15	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	4	—	19	—	3	20	23	5	11	3	2	7	10	—	3	6	2	—	—	1	27	1	4	1	—
Willenhall ...	481	8	307	18	13	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	13	4	2	30	3	3	35	22	17	43	20	1	13	18	6	3	2	4	5	—	5	36	2	6	5	—
Totals ...	10216	306	7241	300	200	66	6	23	2	—	4	—	5	12	197	239	115	34	597	30	54	974	734	175	1283	260	66	246	483	85	81	43	68	49	4	85	860	83	181	90	7	

RURAL

DISTRICT	Population at all ages		Mean area per person in acres	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted Live Birth- rate by comparability factor	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Adjusted death-rate by comparability factor	Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 registered live births (Infants under 4 weeks of age)	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality			Per 1,000 of Population							Congenital Malformations
											Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Malignant Neoplasm	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Nephritis and Nephrosis	
	Per 1,000 of Population																				
Cannock ...	24,166	25,110	2.3	16.7	16.0	0.40	10.4	11.5	24	31	0.04	—	—	—	1.43	0.60	0.36	0.16	0.08	0.08	
Cheadle ...	32,844	34,420	1.8	14.4	15.0	0.44	14.0	14.4	14	22	—	—	—	0.96	0.03	1.69	0.41	0.52	0.23	0.09	0.17
Leek ...	16,863	17,650	4.1	13.7	14.0	0.23	10.0	10.9	12	25	—	—	—	0.11	—	1.59	0.28	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.23
Lichfield ...	41,084	42,580	2.0	12.7	14.2	0.35	10.9	12.9	9	19	—	—	—	—	—	1.64	0.40	0.99	0.23	0.09	0.05
Newcastle ...	17,126	17,650	2.3	13.2	13.2	0.34	11.0	10.6	9	13	—	—	—	0.11	—	1.81	0.62	0.11	0.17	0.06	0.06
Seisdon ...	22,322	26,220	1.6	16.7	17.2	0.38	9.6	10.2	16	18	0.04	—	—	—	—	1.56	0.38	0.38	0.04	0.08	0.11
Stafford ...	18,614	19,510	4.1	15.3	16.7	0.36	8.4	10.1	7	13	—	—	—	0.05	—	1.38	0.51	—	0.05	0.05	0.21
Stone ...	16,789	16,730	3.7	14.7	14.0	0.12	8.5	9.4	16	24	—	—	—	0.06	—	1.26	0.60	0.36	—	0.18	0.06
Tutbury ...	14,839	15,280	2.1	16.0	16.8	0.46	9.0	8.9	25	25	—	—	—	0.13	0.07	0.98	0.52	0.13	0.20	—	—
Uttoxeter ...	9,862	11,150	5.1	16.1	18.2	0.27	9.0	9.2	11	22	—	—	—	—	—	1.17	0.54	0.27	—	—	0.09
Totals and Averages ...	214,509	226,300	2.6	14.7	15.3	0.35	10.5	11.3	14	21	0.01	—	—	0.04	0.01	1.51	0.47	0.42	0.14	0.08	0.11

RURAL

District	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths from all causes	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 4 weeks	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, other	Syphilitic Disease	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infections	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Malignant Neoplasm					Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	Diabetes	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	Coronary Disease, Angina	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Other Heart Disease	Other Circulatory Disease	Influenza	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Congenital Malformations	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	All other Accidents	Suicide	Homicide and operations of War
															Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms																						
Cannock	...	419	10	261	13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	4	4	4	20	-	4	36	33	10	48	6	2	9	15	4	4	3	2	3	-	2	29	2	8	4	-
Cheadle	...	497	15	481	11	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	8	3	1	33	-	3	61	55	9	129	28	2	18	14	8	3	-	3	3	-	6	59	3	10	2	1
Leek	241	4	177	6	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	1	2	17	-	1	35	25	2	37	8	1	2	5	1	1	1	2	-	4	12	2	4	-	-	
Lichfield	...	539	15	465	10	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	8	8	2	39	1	3	64	56	10	83	17	3	42	17	10	3	-	4	3	1	2	47	12	8	6	-
Newcastle	...	233	6	195	3	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	1	-	17	1	1	21	34	5	36	6	3	2	11	3	3	1	1	1	1	17	2	10	-	-	
Seisdon	...	439	10	252	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	9	4	-	20	-	2	36	36	7	42	9	1	10	10	1	2	2	2	2	-	3	31	7	6	1	-
Stafford	...	299	7	163	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	4	1	15	3	-	30	13	3	31	8	3	-	10	1	2	1	1	5	4	9	3	7	1	-	
Stone	...	246	2	143	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	1	13	1	1	15	17	1	22	10	3	6	10	-	2	-	3	1	1	17	7	3	1	-	
Tutbury	...	244	7	138	6	6	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	9	-	1	22	10	3	29	6	1	2	8	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	19	2	3	3	-
Uttoxeter	...	179	3	100	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2	-	5	-	1	15	9	2	27	3	-	3	6	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	10	2	4	1	-
Totals	...	3336	79	2375	71	48	10	2	8	-	-	-	2	4	61	49	31	12	188	6	17	335	288	52	484	101	19	94	106	31	26	8	18	21	3	24	250	42	63	19	1

Table showing the number of cases of certain Infectious Diseases notified in each sanitary area during the year ended 31st December, 1955, and the Attack-Rates per 1,000 of the population.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Estimated Population 1955 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio- myelitis Cases
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Aldridge ...	33,100	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	0.79	123	3.72	—	—	3	0.09	911	27.52	24	0.73	1	0.03	—
Amblecote ...	3,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.99	11	3.64	—	—	—	—	53	17.55	4	1.32	—	—	—
Biddulph ...	12,640	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.24	58	4.59	—	—	3	0.24	165	13.05	15	1.19	—	—	—
Bilston ...	33,830	—	—	1	0.03	—	—	13	0.38	77	2.28	—	—	2	0.06	566	16.73	33	0.98	3	0.09	1
Brierley Hill ...	49,740	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	11	0.22	54	1.09	—	—	1	0.02	763	15.34	4	0.08	3	0.06	—
Brownhills ...	21,590	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.23	30	1.39	—	—	4	0.19	547	25.34	7	0.32	—	—	—
Cannock ...	41,730	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	0.48	92	2.20	—	—	9	0.22	651	15.60	22	0.53	10	0.24	1
Coseley ...	33,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	0.97	43	1.30	7	0.21	—	—	613	18.58	83	2.52	1	0.03	—
Darlaston ...	22,070	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	0.54	30	1.36	—	—	—	—	354	16.04	10	0.45	1	0.05	1
Kidsgrove ...	17,790	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	0.39	4	0.22	—	—	3	0.17	46	2.59	11	0.62	—	—	1
Leek ...	19,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1.16	24	1.26	—	—	1	0.05	55	2.89	12	0.63	1	0.05	—
Lichfield ...	10,980	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.18	2	0.18	—	—	—	—	127	11.57	4	0.36	4	0.36	1
Newcastle ...	72,220	—	—	—	—	1	0.01	73	1.01	54	0.75	—	—	2	0.03	420	5.82	12	0.17	4	0.06	3

URBAN—continued

DISTRICT	Estimated Population 1955 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio- myelitis Cases
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Rowley Regis...	49,120	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	0.45	41	0.83	—	—	2	0.04	903	18.38	1	0.02	—	—	1
Rugeley ...	11,120	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	0.81	2	0.18	—	—	—	—	135	12.14	1	0.09	—	—	1
Sedgley ...	23,740	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.21	25	1.05	—	—	2	0.08	503	21.19	10	0.42	—	—	1
Stafford ...	41,220	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	1.09	17	0.41	—	—	1	0.02	949	23.02	14	0.34	3	0.07	3
Stone ...	8,710	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.57	—	—	1	0.11	95	10.91	1	0.11	—	—	—
Tamworth ...	13,360	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1.65	—	—	5	0.37	302	22.60	11	0.82	—	—	2
Tettenhall ...	10,780	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	0.93	12	1.11	—	—	1	0.09	348	32.28	11	1.02	1	0.09	1
Tipton ...	39,440	—	—	1	0.03	—	—	54	1.37	51	1.29	3	0.08	1	0.03	591	14.98	16	0.41	4	0.10	1
Uttoxeter ...	7,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.40	9	1.19	—	—	3	0.40	179	23.61	—	—	—	—	—
Wednesbury ...	34,730	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	1.09	26	0.75	—	—	1	0.03	674	19.41	53	1.53	1	0.03	1
Wednesfield ...	22,170	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	1.85	29	1.31	—	—	4	0.18	318	14.34	9	0.41	1	0.05	7
Willenhall ...	31,100	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	0.35	7	0.23	—	—	—	—	355	11.41	22	0.71	1	0.03	1

RURAL

DISTRICT	Estimated Population 1955 for calculating rates	Smallpox		Typhoid		Para- Typhoid		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio- myelitis Cases
		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	
Cannock ...	25,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	0.76	20	0.80	—	—	1	0.04	526	20.95	8	0.32	1	0.04	1
Cheadle ...	34,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	1.83	55	1.60	—	—	2	0.06	87	2.53	17	0.49	—	—	4
Leek ...	17,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.45	22	1.25	—	—	2	0.11	190	10.76	4	0.23	—	—	4
Lichfield ...	42,580	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	16	0.38	20	0.47	—	—	6	0.14	461	10.83	19	0.45	—	—	2
Newcastle ...	17,650	—	—	—	—	1	0.06	9	0.51	2	0.11	—	—	—	—	72	4.08	—	—	—	—	3
Seisdon ...	26,220	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	0.50	31	1.18	—	—	3	0.11	418	15.94	16	0.61	—	—	3
Stafford ...	19,510	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	0.31	6	0.31	—	—	1	0.05	468	23.99	3	0.15	—	—	1
Stone ...	16,730	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	0.54	18	1.08	—	—	1	0.06	104	6.22	6	0.36	—	—	—
Tutbury ...	15,280	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	0.52	24	1.57	—	—	3	0.20	312	20.42	6	0.39	—	—	—
Utttoxeter ...	11,150	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	0.81	11	0.99	19	1.70	2	0.18	349	31.30	2	0.18	—	—	—